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CEL'S 1983-85 PROJECT TO BENEFIT WESTERN DEPARTMENTS

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Aug 83 pp 3, 45

[Text] The CEL [Lempa River Hydroelectric Executive Commission] power plants have generated an approximate total of 1,424,900,000 kilowatts-hours, current CEL President Col Francisco A. Moran has reported.

Of that total, he adds, 830.3 megawatts (58.3 percent) were generated by the 5 de Noviembre, Guajoyo and Cerron Grande hydroelectric plants.

A total of 513.4 megawatts (36 percent), he continued, were generated by the Ahuachapan geothermal plant and 81.2 megawatts (5.7 percent) by the Acajutla thermal and Soyapango gas turbine plants, both of which operate with oil products.

Colonel Moran reports that total kilowatts-hours generation in the first half of 1983 was 463,960,000 (60.7 percent) by hydroelectric, 252,080,000 (33.3 percent) by geothermal and 48,479,000 (6.3 percent) by thermal (oil products) power plants, for an overall total of 764,619,000 [figure as published] kilowatts-hours.

Installed Capacity

Including the San Lorenzo hydroelectric plant scheduled for inauguration, Colonel Moran continues, the national installed capacity of electricity generation in kilowatts-hours is made up as follows:

-- 64.9 percent hydroelectric plants: 5 de Noviembre, 85,000; Guajoyo, 15,000; Cerron Grande, 135,000; and San Lorenzo, 180,000.

-- 14.9 percent geothermal: Ahuachapan geothermal plant, 95,000.

-- 20.2 percent thermal (oil products): Acajutla thermal plant, 69,600; and Soyapango gas turbine plant, 58,600.

The system, Moran says, still does not include the installed capacity of 24,000 kilowatts-hours of the San Miguel gas turbine plant scheduled to begin operations in the next few months.

Future Projects

Among the tentative projects that the CEL expects to complete for electricity generation up to the year 2000, adds Colonel Moran, top priority is given to the 1983-85 Eighth Energy Project to be developed primarily in Santa Ana, Sonsonate, Ahuachapan and Usulután departments.

To maintain continuity in the development of plans to expand the electrical power sector over the medium- and long-terms, as well as in the supply of electricity, Colonel Moran reports that this project includes works and studies to restore the transmission system, acquisition of drilling equipment for geothermal energy, training plan, rural electrification in the western region, rehabilitation of Ahuachapan's geothermal field, experimental reinjection in Berlin's geothermal field and detailed design and preparation of bids for the Berlin geothermal plant, as well as geothermal studies at the Chipilapa (Ahuachapan) field.

Electrical Interconnection

The Honduras-El Salvador electrical interconnection, continues Colonel Moran, is expected to start operation by late-1984, following expansion of the San Miguel substation and construction of approximately 55 km of transmission lines to the El Amatillo border.

Other Projects

Concluding, Colonel Moran says tentative projects to be undertaken from now until the year 2000 include the following:

- Geothermal studies in Coatepeque (Santa Ana).
- Chipilapa (Ahuachapan) geothermal power plant.
- Berlin geothermal power plant.
- San Vicente geothermal power plant.
- Chinameca (San Miguel) geothermal power plant.
- El Tigre hydroelectric power plant.
- Coal thermoelectric power plant (Sonsonate).
- Expansion of the 5 de Noviembre hydroelectric power plant.
- Expansion of the Cerrón Grande hydroelectric power plant.

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QADHDHAFI'S EFFORTS TO WOO CARIBBEAN NATIONS SET BACK

Bridgetown CANA in English 0919 GMT 8 Sep 83

[Report by Guy Ellis]

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 8 Sep (CANA)--Efforts by Libyan strongman Muammar Qaddafi to win friends in the English-speaking Caribbean have suffered a setback here that gave the public image of his socialist admirers on the island a battering.

The setback was the second in about 7 months, following a torpedoed effort to win friends and cement ties with leftist politicians in neighbouring Dominica.

St Lucias prime minister, John Compton last July blocked what he said was a plan by Libya to train supporters of the opposition Progressive Labour Party (PLP)--headed by a former foreign minister and Deputy Prime Minister George Odlum--in ways of destabilising governments.

Compton ordered the police to seize the groups' passports shortly before the 14 persons were to fly out.

Fifteen Dominicans who had taken up an offer of scholarships Libya channelled through another leftist party, however, returned home prematurely last December saying they had been placed in a camp for training in terrorism and sabotage.

Like the Dominica Liberation Movement Alliance (DLMA), the PLP here shrugged aside the charge that Libya's plan was to train youths for a wave of violence in the hope of toppling conservative governments in the eastern Caribbean.

Compton, who took this 238-square-mile agriculture and tourist dependent island to independence from Britain 4 years ago, accused Odlum and his party of being financed by Libya.

Such financing, he said, had been responsible for sporadic bursts of PLP activity on the island. Earlier this year, the party launched a campaign

of public meetings and anti-government demonstrations. But the government stepped in after the second march and invoked a section of the public order act to place an indefinite ban on such activity in and around the city.

The St Lucian leader alleged that the PLP usually made video recordings of its anti-government activities and sent them to Libya, thereby earning the party additional Libyan funds.

Last 22 July Compton went on radio and television to announce that a group of "activists" of the PLP had been secretly recruited for training in terrorism and sabotage in Libya.

He said: "This is a matter of utmost gravity which endangers the security of St Lucia and the safety of its citizens."

He gave names of 14 of the alleged recruits--both men and women--who he said were to be involved in "this act of treason."

Compton said the Libyan Government had recently allocated (U.S.) one million dollars for political activities by so-called progressive parties in the Caribbean.

The PLP, he said had received (U.S.)\$40,000 of this amount.

The PLP has never denied the charge that it has been receiving Libyan funds.

Responding to charges that he had been to Libya more than once this year, Odium explained that anytime he was wanted anywhere in the world and tickets were sent for him to travel, he would go.

The first PLP reaction to Compton's nationwide address came in Odium's weekly newspaper, THE CRUSADER. In a front page story, it denied that recruits were to have been involved in training in either terrorism or sabotage. They were students, the PLP said, who were travelling to Libya to study "a variety of technical skills."

THE CRUSADER quoted "sources close to the PLP" as saying that Compton was in panic because "the bankruptcy of his government is leading St Lucians to see revolution as a strong possible solution to the chaos and frustration in the country."

The police here said some of the recruits were illiterate and had criminal records.

Odium has said that two persons said by Compton to have been involved in the travel arrangements for the recruits, were in fact quite innocent. One of those, a Briton named David England, left the island after being declared a prohibited immigrant.

Just how serious the government was treating the matter became evident when Compton told party supporters that his administration would combat any attempt here to seize power by unconstitutional means.

He declared: "...Anytime they try their nonsense, we will rally you and crush them, and crush the serpent's head."

Last month, Odlum addressed a letter to the prime minister, pleading on England's behalf. He wrote: "As leader of the Progressive Labour Party, I am the person directly concerned with the details of this venture and I give you my word of honour that England knew nothing of the trip to Libya and was not in any way associated with the arrangements."

Odlum accused the government of victimising England. He said Eastern Airlines resident manager, St Lucian Newman Monroe, was not involved, as the government had claimed. He suggested that the charges against them be "quietly dropped or pursued formally through due process of law."

The PLP leader's letter said: "I trust that at this crucial point in time in our economic and political evolution, that you would see the merit in letting sleeping dogs lie."

But the government maintained its resolve and in a statement to the House of Assembly a few days later, Compton reiterated the government's determination to see the matter through to the very end.

The St Lucian recruits, he told the House of Assembly, were to have been part of a group of 100 from the eastern Caribbean to be provided with airline tickets for travel to Libya by that country's embassy in Mexico.

Explaining that information on the affair had been supplied to his government by the intelligence services of "certain friendly countries," Compton said: "In the dragnet of security information one name attracted attention--that of David England. The purpose for which these people were recruited has been confirmed by 15 Dominican returnees who were similarly lured to Libya on the false promise of student scholarships, only to find themselves confined to terrorist training camps."

Referring to England's denial Compton said: "The secret service do not know who David England is, but they found his name on a telex message and they transmitted it to the government here. That is how we know. How did they dream up his name."

According to Compton, of the first batch of St Lucian recruits--part of an overall group of 26, seven were known criminals, convicted of offences ranging from the use of threatening words to being armed with a dangerous weapon.

Monroe too seems likely to become another casualty of the Libyan connection. The government has announced that his "involvement" has been reported to his employers, because "his activities pose a danger to national security."

He has been debarred from entry into the Hewanorra International Airport compound here.

Monrose has made no statement on the matter. Although Odlum contends too that he was not involved, the government claims that on 24 July, Monrose accompanied by PLP mobilisation officer Vic Fadlein had attempted to charter two St Lucian Airways planes to take the recruits to Martinique on the first leg of their trip to Libya.

Monrose, Compton told Parliament, had used the Eastern Airlines custom to obtain a 5 percent discount on the transaction which was however aborted when the police seized the passports of the wouldbe passengers.

There has been no indication from the PLP as to what institutions in Libya or subjects the St Lucians would have studied. The fact that some of the party were reportedly illiterate has also raised questions here about the nature of their intended training.

But Odlum dismissed the terrorism/sabotage theory as ridiculous. "You don't have to go all the way to Libya to be trained in terrorism. We have people in St Lucia who know how to blast...there are people (here) who can put together a home-made bomb better than the IRA (Irish Republic Army)," he told a public meeting of his PLP.

Apart from the PLP, Libya has reportedly established strong ties with leftist political parties in Grenada--where it has its only embassy in the eastern Caribbean--as well as in Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda.

Odlum has been one of the country's most controversial politicians. Between 1979 and 1981, he was involved in a bitter but unsuccessful attempt to wrest control of the St Lucia Labour Party (SLP) government from Prime Minister Allan Louisy.

At one point during the controversy, Odlum and Louisy clashed publicly over the former's secret recruitment of 12 St Lucian youths for military training in Grenada.

Louisy told the nation Odlum had indicated to him that only two young men had been sent to "the spice isle" to be trained as bodyguards for members of the then government, but he had later discovered that the figure was 12.

The secret training in Grenada was one of the reasons advanced by Louisy for refusing to honour an agreement with Odlum to hand him the leadership of the SLP government.

The Libyan affair has undoubtedly affected Odlum's public image--although he usually brushes aside any suggestions that his popularity might have been affected by actions taken by him or his party.

GRENADA EX-PM GAIRY VISITS BARBADOS, MEETS WITH PRESS

Hotel Press Conference

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

SIR Eric Gairy opened his Press conference in Barbados yesterday by saying that before any questions were asked he wanted to break his silence and answer the many "lies" told by Maurice Bishop over the past four years since he took over the country.

He said that the Grenadian Prime Minister had been involved in disseminating propaganda about him which he wanted to deny. He prefaced his remarks by saying that Bishop had been an agent of the Soviet KGB from school days and was indoctrinated in the communist system of propaganda.

He said that he (Gairy) never had anything called a mongoose squad and that he was not involved in killing people. He said: "I don't kill ... not even a moth that surrounds my lamp. When I get up in the morning I throw it out of the window."

He said that he should clear up the manner in which he lost control of Grenada. "There was no rebellion", he said. "This government was taken at five o'clock in the morning when they went to True Blue and one man whom they later killed opened a window at the navy headquarters and saw the men sleeping and gave the okay for some 11 Grenadians and six Cubans to throw bombs and set the building on

fire."

He said that his opponents made out cases against him based on his Christian faith, his support for women and women's rights; and his ability to dress well.

"They tried to discredit me in everyway," he said.

He queried what had become of almost half million (US) dollars worth of gold articles he left behind in Grenada.

Sir Eric said that during his tenure in St. George's he had made lots of state visits to other countries as prime minister and was given gold items as gifts and he also bought a great deal of gold when it was being sold at \$35 (US) an ounce.

"I used to buy it by the yard," Sir Eric said, adding: (present Prime Minister Maurice) "Bishop has gotten that — it's over \$300 000 (US) — he's never mentioned that. I had a cross — an 18-inch cross that I got from Rome, (it was) gold. I had it on display at the Bank of Nova Scotia for two weeks. That's about another \$150 000 (US) and my bank accounts. But he said that I had \$25 million in Switzerland."

He said that after the March 1979 coup, Prime Minister Bishop spoke about the items he found at Sir Eric's Mount Royal Home "... (but) he never talked about the wealth in jewellery — 18 gold and silver medallions given to me ... conferred on me."

Assessment of Future Action

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

OUSTED Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, who is in Barbados on holiday,

told a Press conference yesterday that he will return to Grenada without the use of force.

He spoke confidently about the support ("from the silent majority") in Grenada as well as exiled Grenadians in Barbados, Trinidad and in the United States.

Sir Eric, who has been living in California since his government was replaced in an early morning coup in March 1979, returned to the Caribbean for the first time on Monday night, saying that he has always liked Barbados and Barbadian people and that was his reason for coming here.

He told a Press conference at Holiday Inn: "The people expect me. They want me and I feel that it is incumbent upon me to return because they have given me a full mandate that has not been withdrawn. They have not voted me out. I am in temporary exile."

"I wouldn't want a government overthrown by mercenaries. If I wanted mercenaries to overthrow the government that would have been done if I had the money. In

fact, the money could have been gotten. But I do not want that. I don't want it in that way."

He said that he had no special reason for being in Barbados at this time and that he was merely a visitor to the island, without giving any prior notice to the government. He said: "It has been four and a half years that I have been in the United States and I miss the Caribbean."

Gairy said that he has no connections with any proposed invasion of Grenada or any attempt to regain power by force.

He added: "There is no connection between the American naval manoeuvres in the region and my presence in the region."

He was not prepared to say how long he will remain in the Caribbean. "I have not made up my mind" he said, suggesting that he would like to visit some other islands.

About his own plans, Sir Eric said: "I have come back much more prepared as a leader. I have improved in my mental and my physical health and as you know, I am always a student of the inner man. As a leader I am more equipped."

He dismissed suggestions that he would not be received by Grenadians. He said: "If you believe Bishop, you would believe

that. I don't have to persuade the Grenadians."

He said that he was not prepared to say how he gets his information, but that he is in contact with Grenadians everywhere and has done much to assist thousands who have fled the Spice Isle and found refuge in the United States.

He added: "I spoke to the highest authorities and got help for exiles who ran away from the tyranny under Bishop."

Gairy said that there was no chance for reconciliation between Bishop himself and: "If you know me. If you know Eric Gairy then you would know the type of person I am. I am very frank, very honest, very fearless. I do not play for half-measures. I could not be in association with a communist. I have spoken out quite clearly on my philosophy and my condemnation of communism."

He said that Bishop himself is unable to join forces with anyone else since he takes his orders from the Cubans.

On the question that he might be needed by Bishop in Grenada to answer charges of murder and fraud, Gairy said: "The murderer is Mr. Bishop."

Exchange With Faria

Bridgetown: THE NATION in English 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

FORMER Grenadian Prime Minister, Sir Eric Gairy, yesterday put out journalist-political activist, Norman Faria from his Press conference at Holiday Inn.

Faria's expulsion came midway in a two-hour session between a cross section of the media and the exiled Grenadian leader. It came at a point when Faria had sharp exchanges with Sir Eric.

FARIA: Why are you opposed to a government that has done so much good for the people?

Gairy: "What paper are you representing?"

Faria: "Well, I'm representing Caribbean Contact."

Gairy: "Is that the paper of the church? We did not invite you. The Caribbean Contact is a communist paper. And no single man in the area has done more harm to Grenada and the Caribbean people than Mr. Roy Nehall, the head of the CCC or whatever you call it... no other man has done as much harm. He has introduced communism to the area and I do not care what you say, communism is not a welcome

ideology for the people of the Caribbean. What you say about Bishop doing good things for the people of Grenada... that is complete nonsense. Nonsense and communistic."

Faria: Certainly if you look at their literacy programme...

Gairy: You go to Grenada and talk to the people... in fact you can't talk.

"In the first instance the people can't talk. There is a silent majority. The people you can talk with are the people that belong to Mr. Bishop... I have been loud in my opposition to the CCC. I'm against them because they are against the freedom of the people... if people open their mouths in Grenada they are sent to jail... people are missing... the people of Barbados are a free people. You have a freely elected government, but the regime in Grenada was put there by guns. Let me deal with the Contact... by whom were you invited here? I did not invite you here.

Faria: There was an announcement in the Press...

Gairy: These people who are here... I invited them. I don't

make any bones about how I feel about the Contact, because they have done so much damage to my people ... 25 000 Grenadians are astray now, including myself ... I would rather you leave. All the other people I asked here.

Faria: I think we should hear from the others here.

Gairy: No, no, no. They are here on my invitation. This is my Press conference. Is there anyone here who has come without my invitation?

(No answers)

Gairy: You've got your answer. I have to invite who I want in here. I'm paying for this room.

In Grenada if one of these people went to Mr. Bishop's Press conference and they were not invited, they could not even go by the door.

Faria: That is not true. Any journalist can go.

Gairy: You speak for yourself. You would be given the red carpet. Perhaps you have been given the red carpet. You cannot have it both ways.

Faria: I want to hear from the others. In Barbados we have a fraternity ... You are not important here.

Gairy: No. I'm important here. In this room ... I don't want to have anything to do with communists.

Faria: I want to hear from my colleagues.

Gairy: They are working for their particular media. They have been sent here ...

Faria: You will have to wait on their comments ...

At this point Sir Eric summoned the management of the hotel asserting that he may not have a right at the bar of the hotel, but that this was his room.

Security staff were summoned to the room and Faria left peacefully. He was joined by some of the journalists who walked out of the meeting.

Prior to the Press conference Faria had distributed pamphlets on behalf of the Movement for National Liberation (MONALI) condemning Gairy's visit to Barbados as "provocative".

CARIBBEAN CONTACT Reply

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

*Editor of Caribbean Contact, Rickey Singh, finds it reprehensible that a local journalist, irrespective of his association or philosophical viewpoint, should be requested to leave a Press conference called by a Grenadian politician to discuss his country's problems in Barbados.

Singh was reacting yesterday to the move by ousted Grenada Prime Minister Sir Eric Gairy, to ask freelance journalist, Norman Faria, to leave his Press conference.

The conference by Sir Eric was held last Wednesday at the Holiday Inn.

When Faria posed a question and identified himself as representing Caribbean Contact, Sir Eric said he was not specially invited as other journalists present were, and further accused Contact of being a "communist newspaper."

Singh said that Faria, who like other local journalists had read of Sir Eric's Press Conference, called the Editor of Contact and volunteered coverage.

! He said that Faria is not a member of Contact staff, but it is not unusual for freelance journalists to cover Press conferences and other events for more than one media company.

"It is reprehensible that a local journalist, irrespective of his association or philosophical viewpoint, should be requested to leave a Press conference called by a Grenadian politician to discuss his country's problems in Barbados," the Contact Editor said.

Singh said it is encouraging to know that some of the local journalists chose to express their disapproval by walking out of Sir Eric's Press conference.

He said that Contact did not consider it necessary to defend "the baseless allegations about communism made by Sir Eric."

"Contact has noted that Sir Eric prefers to attack individuals and organisations rather than explain to the media the real purpose of his visit to Barbados at this time," Mr. Singh said.

He added that so far as Sir Eric's "bitter personal attack on Rev. Nehaul (former General Secretary of the Caribbean Conference of Churches to which Caribbean Contact is affiliated) is concerned, it is to be noted that the CCC has already paid tribute to Rev. Nehaul's outstanding contributions to regional ecumenism and to the full development of Caribbean people."

"It would, therefore, be a disservice to Rev. Nehaul to defend him against allegations by a politician like Eric Gairy," Singh said.

Interview on Current Activities

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 21 Aug 83 p 9

[Text]

Q: Did the Barbados Government know you were coming here?

A: They did not know I was coming. That is important.

Q: Were you accorded VIP treatment at the airport?

A: No. I do not expect VIP treatment. I am not the *de facto* prime minister of Grenada. There is a prime minister in Grenada... I do not think he gets VIP treatment, does he? I do not think the actual prime minister gets VIP treatment here and I am not the actual prime minister. I am the *de jure* prime minister — the properly elected prime minister, but I do not have Grenada in my hands.

Q: How were you treated on arrival in Barbados?

A: The people I met at the airport were very kind and very nice to me.

Q: What is the significance of your coming to Barbados at this time?

A: Let me answer that by asking another question. If I came a month ago, would I still have been coming at a special time?

Q: Yes...

A: So there is a time factor surrounding my travels?

Q: Yes. So tell us the significance this time...

A: I don't believe there is any significance about this time.

Q: Why did you come this week and not next week or next month or six months ago?

A: After four years and five months in the United States, I miss the Caribbean. Long time since I had eaten any flying fish. I had some yesterday.

Q: Do you plan to remain in the region for sometime?

A: Depending upon the circumstances as they come along.

Q: Will you be visiting any other Caribbean Countries?

A: I would like to.

Q: How long will you remain in Barbados?

A: I have not yet made up my mind. I am here on holiday.

Q: Apart from meeting the Press in Barbados, would you be meeting with any other groups or individuals?

A: I'm likely to be talking to people, groups and individuals so on... I don't have any reservations. If anybody asks me any questions I would have the time to answer them.

Q: Why did you choose Barbados and not any other countries in the Caribbean as your return point?

A: I've always liked Barbados. They are many characteristics that would attract a person to come here. I am not comparing... I am saying in Barbados the people are evidently more alert. They are more informed, than the average. They read plenty, they chat plenty, and they know

what's going on. Of course I didn't know that the cost of living was so high. I like the people of Barbados. I like the island as well. I feel more at home here. I am friendly with all the governments ... I have more friends with the Government of Trinidad than I have here. I have a lot of friends in Trinidad.

Q: Did you come to Barbados alone Sir?

A: I came with a lot of people, all black belts ... they stay all around ... lots of them on different flights ... black belts.

Q: Are you ...

A: Are you leading up to a point, then come to the point.

Q: Is Mrs. Gairy with you?

A: Or rather you mean, did I come with any members of my family? No, I came singly, but I have a lot of other people who came with me as I said earlier.

Q: How big a group?

A: I am only joking. They are not all black belts.

Q: Where do you go from here?

A: I haven't decided yet.

Q: How long do you plan to stay?

A: I haven't decided yet.

Q: What is the time frame you have of visiting other countries when you leave here? Do you intend to return to exile — temporary exile — in the United States when you leave this country?

A: You know, I haven't made a decision on that yet. Again, that would depend on circumstances. I might be attracted to remain in one of the islands ... not Barbados.

Q: Bishop says that he is going to arrest you if you set foot on Grenada.

A: Bishop is shaking and trembling. He doesn't sleep at nights. He paces the floor.

Q: Is your visit to Barbados part of a psychological campaign against him?

A: I don't know. I am a happy person ... Four-and-a-half years in exile. I left with three suits and \$1 200. Bishop has got nine bank accounts, my business, my personal things, our party and union. In my home he has taken

... I am ashamed to talk about it ... things he has gotten there ... and I am at peace with myself. I've learned everyday. I listen to the world news. I watch television everyday. I listen to congressional debates. I am much more advanced intellectually than I used to be. I've made improvements and I am happy. I am at peace

with myself. Mr Bishop is not that way.

Q: What do you do for a living?

A: Do you mean, do I earn? I don't earn. I taught for a few weeks. I think I made less than \$1 000 ... For about six weeks ... I do teach a thing called personal magnetism ... I am involved with some other things — finer things and I tried that and had classes — a six weeks class ... I haven't worked nor anything like that in the United States.

Q: Are you into preaching in the United States?

A: No. Some people are certain that I have a church. I heard that in Grenada they say I have a church ... they say all sorts of things about me. I used to go to church in California where I live. I am a Roman Catholic by religion.

Q: And what are you by ideology?

A: I would say that I am a liberal conservative. I am a liberal on issues like land reform and rights of women and rights of workers and the health of the poor and so on. Conservative in discipline. I like to see a disciplined country. A liberal conservative.

Q: Are you accepted by Americans?

A: The Bishop regime has failed to hold elections after four-and-a-half years. The United States government has made its policy quite clear. Based on that, my relationship with the United States and its people is good.

I move about in the United States quite freely. I made representation at the uppermost levels of the Immigration and Naturalisation Service there for Grenadians who are having problems. I was able to talk to top people and I have no problem there.

Q: Did you have any formal or informal discussions with United States officials on the state of affairs in Grenada?

A: Yes. I have had talks with several organisations and with individuals within the administration, letting them know what the situation was and is in Grenada.

Q: What were the results?

A: They were astonished to find out exactly how the government was taken.

They were not aware, based on the propaganda, that it was not as a result of a popular rebellion that the government was taken. They did

not know that no one was demonstrating and shouting "Gairy Must Go" and so on. That did not happen, so I had to explain to them how it happened.

Q: Did you get a good reception?

A: They were even surprised because they had heard the opposite. They had heard about a people's revolution and a popular revolution and so on. It was not like that.

Q: Did you ask the United States for assistance in regaining the government of Grenada?

A: No.

Q: Would you want assistance?

A: You come now to the question about if I plan to go back to Grenada and how and when I plan to go back. Because of the peculiar position in which I am placed, it would be difficult for me to answer your questions and give you all the information you want.

Q: Do you have a time frame for going back to Grenada?

A: That is one of the questions I cannot answer. There are things I would like to say and many things I would like to do, but for expedience and better judgment I shall not be able to do them. You would understand what I am talking about.

Q: You have not given up the idea of returning to Grenada?

A: The people expect me to be back there and I expect to be back.

After all, I am the duly elected, constitutional prime minister and head of the government and people of Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. I am in temporary exile. I feel it incumbent upon me to return because the people have given me a full mandate and that has not been dissipated by elections. They have not withdrawn their votes from me. They have not voted me out.

BARBADOS MANUFACTURERS SEEK NEW MARKET IN BAHAMAS

September Mission

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 20 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbadian manufacturers who three months ago were on the brink of a collapse, are banking on the Bahamas to help shore up the manufacturing sector and secure the 15 000-odd jobs in this sector.

An 18-member trade mission from this country is due to visit the Bahamas from September 9 to show off a wide range of locally produced goods and to secure firm orders. The four-day exhibition will be held at the Nassau Beach Hotel.

The mission to the Bahamas is the first from this country and has come following extensive research of the market there by Mr. Joey Harper.

Mr. Harper along with Mr. Vanburn Gaskin and Mr. John Watson briefed the press on the mission.

Barbadian exports to its regional trading partners went up Bds\$8.5 million for the first quarter

this year but there are fears that because of the series of trade problems the exports could have fallen off since then.

Local businessmen had temporarily closed their operations following disruption in their export trade to Trinidad and Tobago, this country's main regional trading partner.

Although a mini summit in Barbados and the subsequent Heads of Government meeting in Port Of Spain did defuse the situation some businessmen in Barbados have said that trade has not quite reached previous levels.

Mr. Watson told the press that the Trinidad and Tobago market was becoming sluggish and it was necessary for local manufacturers to seek other markets.

Mr. Harper said that from his findings it was revealed that very few Bahamians knew Barbados was a manufacturing country.

He noted that it was a good market to get into for the variety of

local products which will be on show in that country. He said he took along samples of the products during his trip to the Bahamas.

Mr. Harper said that no licensing arrangements would be required and "in every sense of the word it is a relatively free market."

According to him: "The market is conducive to the holding of an exhibition. The manufacturers will have to enter the market aware of the fact that it is an open market, subject to international competition."

Mr. Watson said, too, that in order to sell in the Bahamas businessmen had to obtain a temporary work permit, and to get this a first schedule form must be completed.

In addition a police certificate of character, medical certificate, and two testimonials are also required.

The products to be displayed are already in the Bahamas.

Trade Figures

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Barbados private sector is sending a trade mission to the Bahamas from September 11-14 with a view to landing contracts for a range of exports, a businessman Joey Harper has reported.

Eighteen Barbadian businesses are taking part in the venture, aimed at getting people on the Caribbean archipelago to buy more Barbadian furniture, garments, foodstuff, curios and other products.

"At the moment our trade with the Bahamas is negligible," Harper reported. "We are trying to improve it."

Last year Barbados bought \$173 693 worth of goods from the Bahamas. Imports in 1981 were valued at \$137 702.

Exports to the Bahamas, like Barbados a member of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), were valued at \$704 520 in 1981 and \$1.2 million last year. Main sales were insecticides \$898 700 and rum (\$140 200).

The trade mission, headed by former Assistant Director (Operations) of the state-run Barbados Export Promotion Corporation Vanburn Gaskin, is reported to be the first to the Bahamas. It comes at a time of stepped up trade with CARICOM countries.

Barbados' imports from CARICOM trading partners in the first quarter of this year were valued at \$34.7 million and \$26.3 million in the first quarter of last year.

CSO: 3298/912

ST KITTS-NEVIS PREMIER ADDRESSES DOMINICAN PARTY MEETING

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 30 Jul 83 p 12

[Text] The Premier, the Honourable Dr Kennedy Simmonds returned to the State on Sunday evening from Dominica, where earlier in the day he delivered the feature address at the 15th Annual Convention of the ruling Dominica Freedom Party.

An enthusiastic crowd estimated to be in excess of 5,000, travelled from all parts of Dominica to attend the gala convention which took place this year at the small East Coast village of Delices.

Premier Simmonds was met on arrival by Prime Minister Minister Eugenia Charles and was escorted to the large Convention Hall.

The Freedom Party, like Dr Simmonds' People's Action Movement, was elected to office in 1980, after 20 years of Labour Party rule.

Dr Simmonds' theme was that an enlightened and involved people is the bulwark of democracy. The Premier stressed his commitment to the democratic way of life, and he drew cheers of agreement when he noted that small, Independent states are vulnerable to the perils of adventurism from without and within.

But he reasoned that the surest defence is a vigilant and determined people who are committed to preserving their right of free choice and who abhor violence and spurn subversion.

"We cannot seek to perpetuate ourselves in office either by force of arms or by intimidation," warned Premier Simmonds. "That would be alien to the process by which we came to office in the first place. Let our tools be performance, persuasion and projection.

Referring to himself as a Caribbean brother, the Premier called upon the Convention to support the efforts of their Leaders to use the Regional Integration Movement as a vehicle for National Growth and Development.

At the end of what was termed by the Chairman "a most memorable speech," Dr Simmonds was presented with a souvenir by a young woman who declared that he was one of the Young Freedom Movement's "favourite politicians."

The Young Freedom Movement is the highly organised Youth Arm of the Dominica Freedom Party.

Dr Simmonds was accompanied to Dominica by Mr Hugh Heyliger, Mr Terence Byron and Miss Constance Mitcham.

CSO: 3298/880

BRIEFS

VENEZUELAN DIPLOMATIC MOVES--St. George's, Grenada, Monday (CANA)--The Venezuelan Charge d'Affairs in Grenada, Romulo Nucete left Grenada Saturday for a new posting in Cuba, it has been announced here. According to an official Venezuelan Embassy spokesman the diplomat, along with his wife and children, will first go back to Caracas for briefing before going on to Havana. The official told CANA Nucete's replacement would be Reuben Franco, consular officer at the Venezuelan Embassy in Saudi Arabia. He is expected to arrive in Grenada in September to take up the post. The Venezuelan spokesman said that in the interim the embassy here would be run by Noel Garcia, the present first secretary based in Costa Rica, who is due in Grenada shortly. Nucete on Thursday night held a farewell reception attended by most diplomats posted here along with members of the People's Revolutionary Government, including Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and Justice Minister Kenrick Radix. Venezuela, Cuba and the Soviet Union are the only three countries with embassies in Grenada. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Aug 83 p 3]

BARBADOS MANUFACTURERS TO TRINIDAD--Representatives of 18 manufacturing companies in Barbados will leave the island today for a one-week sales and goodwill mission to Trinidad and Tobago. The companies represented include manufacturers of garments, furniture, watches, solar water heaters and building materials. Four of the companies are making their first sales trip to Trinidad and Tobago. These are Burke Wireworks which makes wire clothes hangers, plastic coated vegetable racks, dish drainers and bath caddies; Sous Sol Designs, manufacturers of ladies garments; Exquisite Furniture Limited, manufacturers of wooden furniture and Carrington's Photo Creations and Video Production Limited. The mission, which is being jointly sponsored by the Barbados Export Promotion Corporation (BEPC) and the Barbados Manufacturers' Association (BMA), will be led by a member of the BEPC Board of Directors, Mr. John Watson. [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 21 Aug 83 p 1]

BENIN SIGNS LOS ACCORD--His Excellency Joseph Hounton of Benin signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday. Looking on are deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, the Rt Hon Hugh Shearer, and Mrs Yvonne Foster, deputy chief of protocol. Benin has become the 130th signatory of the convention governing activities conducted in international waters. At the signing session, Mr Shearer congratulated Ambassador Hounton on having made this important step on behalf of the government of Benin. He also informed him that Belize had recently deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the Law of the Sea Convention, joining the Bahamas, Fiji, Ghana, Jamaica, Mexico, the United Nations Council for Namibia and Zambia as the first signatories to have completed this process. Ambassador Hounton assured Mr Shearer of his government's intention to work towards an early ratification and of Benin's participation in the meetings of the Preparatory Commission currently being held in Kingston. [Text] [FL081443 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 1 Sep 83 p 13]

CSO: 3298/1305

MESSAGE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ON TRADE DISPUTE

FL030800 Bridgetown CANA in English 2206 GMT 2 Sep 83

[Text] St John, Antigua, 2 Sep (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda says it today dispatched a message to Trinidad and Tobago seeking to resolve difficulties that are hampering trade between the two Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird said he had written Trinidad and Tobago's Trade Minister Desmond Cartey seeking to assure him that colour TV sets Antigua is trying to sell to Port of Spain are genuinely made here and should qualify for duty-free treatment under the Caricom regulations.

The hardly month-old export-oriented Electronic Technology International (ETI) which produces the TV sets and Antigua Appliance Industries Limited, manufacturers of fridges and stoves, have both complained of immense difficulty in penetrating the Trinidad market.

Bird said the Trinidad and Tobago Government had told Antigua that "they (Port of Spain) are doing an in-house analysis as to the quantum of appliances that Trinidad needs in any one particular year, and until they have done that sort of definitive study, the question of (import) licences will be almost done on an ad hoc basis."

"This has created a problem for us because Antigua produces refrigerators and stoves and we are now in the business of exporting colour television sets," Bird told CANA in an interview here. Trinidad and Tobago maintains an import licencing system.

The minister of economic development said Antigua-Barbuda had called in experts from the seven-nation Organisation of East Caribbean States (OECS) who had in a report to the government verified the manufacturing capability of the two industries and a copy of the document had been sent to Trinidad and Tobago.

He said the OECS specialists had also verified that the goods were meeting the value-added criteria to qualify them for duty-free treatment in any of the other 12 Caricom states.

Trinidad and Tobago manufacturers have accused certain Antigua industries of breaching the so-called area-origin criteria that determine whether goods made within the region qualify for duty-free treatment in Caricom.

Bird said: "This has been under scrutiny and the manufacturers have indicated to me this is not so. We have gone the extra mile to get the OECS...to make an assessment and an analysis (so) that this (charge) cannot be used as an excuse for refusing licences."

CSO: 3298/1300

SIX-MONTH LOSS PROMPTS OIL COMPANY LAYOFF OF 200

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

ST JOHNS Antigua Thursday (CANA) — The Antigua and Barbuda Government says the financially-troubled West Indies Oil Company here plans to lay-off some of its 200-odd staff following a 16-million dollar (one E.C. dollar equals 37 cents US) loss in the first six months of this year.

A government statement here said the company had informed the Cabinet of its plans to reduce manpower and bring the refinery staff into line with that needed for a trading terminal, pending the eventual implementation of measures to upgrade the refinery and increase its operational efficiency.

"WIOC's management has informed the government that the refinery has sustained financial loss over EC\$44

million during the financial year ended December 31, 1982, and has continued to sustain an average monthly loss of EC\$2 700 000 over the six-month period ended June 1983", the statement said.

The refinery restarted operations at a cost of US\$30 million in April last year after an eight-year closure, in a joint effort between the government and the National Petroleum Company of Bermuda.

Last January, the refinery, which was geared to supplying crude to members of the seven-nation regional sub-grouping — the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) — laid off more than 40 temporary workers.

According to the statement, the company is pursuing a planned upgrading of the refinery, estimated at some US\$350 million "...but that in view of the severity of the current loss position, it can no longer retain a staff structure that has been established to meet the needs of an operating refinery, when processing activities are not taking place, and only terminalling aspects of the refinery are being carried out."

CSO: 3298/909

BIRD BACK FROM ASIAN TOUR, ANNOUNCES LOME II LOAN

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 21 Aug 83 p 3

[Article by Louis Daniel]

[Text]

St. John's, Antigua, Saturday (CAN) — PRIME MINISTER Vere Bird says Antigua and Barbuda is to receive some US\$12 million under the Lome Two Convention, the aid, and trade accord linking developing nations with the European Community.

Bird, just back from a three-nation Far East tour, said half of the money would be used to upgrade the country's roads, while \$3 million will be spent on the development of the agricultural sector and the remainder on overseas tourist promotion.

He said he stopped in London on his way from China, South Korea and Hong Kong, and spoke with officials of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) who had been enquiring about their recommendations to government.

The IMF had suggested that in return for its assistance, the Antigua and Barbuda Government should, among other things, suspend the payment of increments to civil servants as well as enforce a major cut back on the Public Service staff.

Of the several recommendations,

government has already recruited a team to ensure the proper control of government vehicles.

Mr. Bird said that the other recommendations were under serious consideration by government and in the meantime, he has appealed to government employees to show more discipline and co-operate with government in an effort to "stem the tide against the IMF and their recommendations."

Prime Minister Bird has in the past criticised the IMF's policies, arguing that they usually create industrial unrest.

He said that during the Far East tour he also held discussions with representatives of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on the use of a US\$1 million grant to Antigua and Barbuda.

The Prime Minister said the funds would be used in Government's Development Programme in the sister isle of Barbuda.

He added that he was also able to obtain an additional \$6 million from the People's Republic of China to develop the fishing industry here.

CS0: 3298/913

COMMERCIAL TELEVISION SYSTEM READIED FOR OPERATION

FL121459 Bridgetown CANA in English 2333 GMT 10 Sep 83

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, 10 Sep (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda is on the verge of having its second commercial television system, a 10 channel satellite-based operation to be put on the air in time for the country's second anniversary of independence on 1 November.

Owned by local and foreign entrepreneurs, the Cable TV [CTV] system will join the single-channel ABS-TV which the government took over when the station's private owners went broke in 1980.

CTV's studio facilities are now being readied in the Antigua capital, St Johns, and training of the technicians who will have to hook up the cable systems and run the operation is underway.

Stanley Bowen, public relations officer for the new CTV, says (?most) of the programming for the system will be taken off American domestic satellites carrying news, sports, movies, cartoons, and varied other TV material.

He said this would be supplemented by local programming of various types, especially educational and entertainment material. Just how much local material there will be is still to be worked out, Bowen said, along with the actual channel allocation.

He estimated that there were at least 12,000 TV sets in Antigua and Barbuda, judging from the number of paid up television licences registered with the government.

The company will feed its service to consumers 24 hours a day via cable network to be strung across utility poles throughout the city and just outside.

The projected rental cost for the service is \$30 a month (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.).

The way the owners envisage it, the CTV system should have about 10,000 subscribers by the end of its first year's operation.

"The people here are extremely receptive to the cable TV idea and are anxiously awaiting the system," Bowen told CANA.

For Antiguan, the concept of having American satellite TV programming beamed into their homes will not be new.

The government TV station has already erected its own satellite TV receiver, complete with a 16 foot dish antenna, and relays a wealth of material, some of it live: from the popular music show "Solid Gold" back to the news.

For the station, the U.S. satellites clearly constitute a cheap, if sometimes irrelevant, source of programming, carried here from time to time complete with the inserted American advertisements.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird, government has so far not devised systems to deal with the cultural impact of so much American TV in this former British colony. "There have been arguments about cultural imperialism and the imposition of United States perspectives on a small Third World country," he says.

But he wasn't convinced that some of the things people will see in these shows they would want to copy and inculcate "when you are trying to develop your own identity and to develop a new nation."

Said Bird: "I take the point that we cannot just willy nilly plug into the satellite and just let the programmes run. Not that you should be some selective process in terms of what programmes should be shown.

"...There should be some consideration of relevant programming to our own developmental aspirations."

The deputy prime minister said he would favour having perhaps a committee established to ensure that television here "just doesn't plug into 10 or 15 stations when you never know what's on it."

CSO: 3298/1300

BRIEFS

AGREEMENT WITH UNDP--St Johns, Antigua, 26 Aug (CANA)--Antigua and Barbuda has signed an agreement with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) covering technical cooperation, an official statement said. Deputy Prime Minister Lester Bird and UNDP's resident representative to the Eastern Caribbean, Trevor Gordon-Somers, initialled the agreement which supersedes previous arrangements with the United Kingdom prior to Antigua and Barbuda gaining independence in 1981 and full UN membership. The UNDP has allocated 4.8 million E.C. dollars (one E.C. dollar; 37 cents U.S.) in assistance to this Caribbean country over the period 1982-86. The funds will finance the establishment of a hotel training center, upgrading technical capabilities at Coolidge airport here, expanding agricultural production, and an education project. [Text] [FL262154 Bridgetown CANA in English 2115 GMT 26 Aug 83]

CSO: 3298/1300

CAMILION DISCUSSES LOSS OF MILITARY POWER, OTHER ISSUES

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 21 Aug 83 p 14

[Interview with former Argentine Ambassador to Brazil Oscar Camilion; in Brasilia, date not given]

[Text] "The military system became drained. The power system that has been in effect since 1976 became exhausted, especially after the Malvinas War, with the aggravation of political, economic and social problems. Now the reorganization of the parties is underway. The military lost their capacity to rule." That statement was made by former Argentine Ambassador to Brazil Oscar Camilion regarding the return of the Argentine military to the barracks with the holding of elections on 30 October. In an exclusive interview with Dario Macedo of the CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, the former ambassador, who is a candidate to the senate for the Integration and Development Movement, also spoke about the bilateral Brazil-Argentina relationship and about the presence of the United States in Central America, which he sees as an attempt by President Ronald Reagan to establish the East-West confrontation. Kissinger, he declared, "is a cold-war specialist."

He maintained that Brazil and Argentina can play an important role in the Central American conflict by defending the proposition of nonintervention and called for: "all support to the Contadora Group." Oscar Camilion, a journalist who was on the staff of EL CLARIN and is a successful attorney in Argentina, pointed out that when he speaks to Brazilians "I am speaking to friends." Following is the full text of the interview:

[Question] Doctor Camilion, you are cited as the architect of the current relations between Argentina and Brazil, which were considered extremely delicate when you arrived in Brasilia. How are those relations today?

[Answer] They are very good; they became good. A demonstration of what I am saying is that in the recent episodes of the granting of Brazilian bases to British planes on their way to the Malvinas, there were no protests in Argentina. Look, the only one to speak about the matter and to show concern was I. That means, those relations have become reliable. Everyone recalls the problems between Brazil and Argentina because of Itaipu, when Itaipu was even blamed for the floods here in the South. In terms of bilateral relationship, the friendship with Brazil is a priority. I must recall that in the 1973 election campaign,

one of the issues was Brazil. And the analysis that was made was negative. Today topics having to do with Brazil are positive; the bilateral relationship in the internal debate is calm. Of course, we had problems, in trade and industrial terms. Today, the concern is to find the means to increase our volume of trade. Another point I wish to point out because it is positive pertains to the agreements in the nuclear area. The Malvinas crisis was also important in terms of the relationship between our two countries. Brazil maintained its position with intelligence, even outdoing the Argentine foreign minister. Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro was the only one to ask for a meeting of the Organization of the American States to propose a peaceful solution. In performing his duties, he tried to prevent and later to check the militarist escalation.

Now, a desirable point at this moment would be a greater fluidity in the multilateral financial area more and better information about how to set on course the solutions to the foreign debt that afflicts both.

[Question] Ambassador Camilion, the Argentines are preparing to hold presidential elections. What led the military to a decision to abandon power and resume the democratic process?

[Answer] The military system became drained. The power system that has been in effect since 1976 became exhausted, especially after the Malvinas War, with the aggravation of political, economic and social problems. Now the reorganization of the parties is underway, is being completed. The truth is that the nation was not prepared to reorganize its political life in such a short period of time (from the Malvinas War to the present), which proved that the problem was prolonged beyond what was reasonable. The military lost their capacity to rule, resulting in a real loss of power, a power vacuum.

We will have elections next 30 October. Then we will face a delicate process pertaining to political organization which will present some difficulties. Among them, the biggest is that there will not be a political force with a secure majority in the electoral college, which is a challenge to the Argentines: to seek negotiated solutions, which was never a forte of the Argentine parties. (In Argentina, besides the small parties, the most important are the Peronist Justicialist Movement, presided over by former President Maria Estela Martinez de Peron, which will have as its presidential candidate Dr Italo Luder, former president of the senate of the republic; Radical Civic Union, whose candidate is Dr Raul Alfonsin; the Integration and Development Movement, to which Dr Oscar Camilion belongs, whose candidate for the presidency of the republic is Rogerio Frigerio; and the Intransigent Party of Dr Oscar Alende).

[Question] What is the electoral climate in Argentina?

[Answer] Of much activity. The election campaign is going to reveal a strong ideological connotation. I am personally very involved in these elections. I will be a candidate to the senate for my party--in the province of Buenos Aires--and I am head of the organization of the national convention. (One of the leaders of Camilion's party is former President Arturo Frondizi). The inauguration of the president-elect is scheduled for January but the power vacuum and the crisis in the financial and monetary areas are such that President Bignone is already thinking of advancing the inauguration to December.

[Question] Weakened by the Malvinas War, by the failure of their administration of social and economic affairs, the military are leaving the government because they lost their control and not because they want to leave. What type of relationship do you foresee between the military and the future constitutional government?

[Answer] It is going to be very complex because, although they may be very weak--and they know that they are weak--experience tells us that civil governments need reasonable success. What does that mean? A tranquil relationship among the social segments, changes of the country's economic and social courses. And a problem also of credibility, of trying a reasonable civil system. And it is important for the parties to accept this, that they do not begin to knock on the doors of the barracks immediately after the elections. The Argentine military government is very exhausted. In the last 53 years there have been six interventions by the military. The nation was presided over by the military and from 1976 until now there has been a terrible power vacuum. The fact to note also is that they, the military, became very isolated. And an agreement with the civil forces is not going to be simple. If the next government has reasonable success, it may be able to consolidate the democratic process. It is clear that no one is going to ask for miracles or fantasies but the perspective that everything is going to change exists, and that is natural. The legacy of the problems of the so-called dirty war (the time of very violent military repression against antiregime groups) is not a simple legacy. For example, amnesty, a subject that fills with passion and divides people, is being discussed. And what will the future congress do if the military--the military junta--decrees amnesty now?

[Question] Mister Ambassador, it is said that a policy of rearmament continues to operate in Argentina with the object of regaining the Malvinas at any cost, or even to promote a military intervention to take the Beagle Channel...

[Answer] No! The problem of the Malvinas does not exist at this moment. The war obviously left much sorrow and if there are those who think of revanchism, it is a very small group, without the power of decision. And obviously that sorrow stems from the failure. I can state that the problem of the Malvinas does not characterize any kind of special concern. It is obvious, I repeat, that there is a small group against the British and the Chileans but in the bulk of the armed forces, this type of concern does not exist. As for the arms that are arriving, some ships had already been ordered before. The important thing is that, after the inauguration of the civil government, diplomacy resume the debate about the Malvinas.

[Question] Doctor Camillon, how do you see the involvement of the United States in Central America?

[Answer] I see it with great concern. The naming of Kissinger to deal with Central American affairs, to deal with conflicts in El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua, clearly represents the policy of Reagan who, thereby, wants to re-establish the East-West confrontation. Kissinger is a cold-war specialist. And it is logical that they are going to tighten the screws even more. In this problem, I consider Fidel Castro's proposal (for the withdrawal of Cuban

and Soviet advisers from Nicaragua and in exchange the end of U.S. pressures) is correct. If there is no negotiation there can only occur military escalation. The position of the Latin American countries is correct. Now as to the position of Brazil and Argentina, I believe that it should be one of offering all support to the Contadora Group, which is more directly involved in finding a solution to the problem. Brazil has had a clear position in the defense of its proposition of nonintervention. Therefore, Brazil and Argentina, which reject any type of intervention, can play an important role in the conflict. And this policy in the diplomatic area is very important. Therefore, all support to the Contadora Group.

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CSO: 3342/173

BLP ORGAN'S EDITORIAL ON PRESS CONTROL SPARKS FUROR

Text of Offending Item

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 17 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

THE following is the full text of an editorial titled **Freedom of Expression** as published by the **Beacon** newspaper on Friday, August 5, 1983. The "**Beacon**", founded in 1946, is the newspaper of the Barbados Labour Party.

THE RIGHT to express one's views openly and fairly is a well-known pillar of the democratic process. The duty to do so with responsibility and respect for the equal rights of one's neighbour to be free from harm to his reputation, is the other pillar which supports our fragile democracy.

Freedom of expression is always to be encouraged in any political or societal arrangement. The more people speak about matters of public concern in the open, the easier it is to ventilate those concerned publicly.

This condition makes it easier to attract a wider and more catholic spectrum of views on important subjects of urgent public interest. Public debate is nearly always good. Of course, public debate is not to be encouraged on matters of state security or where the national interest is so critically involved that great harm would come to the state if

matters of this type were purveyed in the public domain.

Given this maxim that it is good to nourish a democracy by having public debate on matters of broad and general public interest, it can then easily be seen why the news media or press and wireless (radio) and television are so very important in any nation which practices democracy.

Wide and careful use is to be made of these vehicles of public information. Indeed, these methods may well, over time, become engines of propaganda. There is nothing basically wrong with propaganda. It is really how it is used which raises questions about its morality. But in theory propaganda is quite a legitimate process.

Perhaps the Germans of the Third Reich used it so effectively in the 1930s for wicked purposes, that men of affairs ever since then, became a little cautious in dealing with propaganda, for fear of taint.

Even in democracies, most governments try to have some degree of control over the press and the information media generally. This is not always easy, outside of written and promulgated laws.

Some ministry or the other must be given responsibility for monitoring and supervising what the news media of all kinds, are putting forth to the citizens of the state. The government has a national responsibility for this, just as it has a responsibility for the health or finances of the nation.

It is for this reason that most governments tend to own radio

and television stations. This is especially in developing countries. The average mind tends to believe, without question, everything it reads, hears or sees in the news media. Hence one can readily see the power these vehicles have for fashioning and conditioning the thought process of citizens.

Control is therefore absolutely necessary in the final analysis. Not control in the sense that the news media put forth ONLY what the Government wants and directs. Or that the views of the Government must be sought at every turn before a news item goes forth onto the airwaves. No, that would be something of dictatorship. But ultimate responsibility for public information and how it is dispersed, must rest with the Government of the day.

The present Government in Barbados takes a very even-handed, almost "hands-off" attitude towards the media in general. Even with respect to the Government-owned station, CBC, one gets the feeling that the affairs there, how they handle news, and business affecting the Government itself, is left almost exclusively to the Board of Management and more particularly, to the news people working at the Corporation.

It is true that when you hear criticism from members of the DLP Opposition sometimes, you wonder if they are speaking of the same CBC that you listen to and watch.

There would seem to be very little ministerial or governmental interference at CBC. What is

more critical is that the operatives at CBC seem to arrogate to themselves the power to state all sorts of comments, heavily slanted against the Government, without fear of reprimand.

They put on commentators who are obvious and known critics of the present Government, without seeking to balance those critical views by supporting the Government.

They say this is professional independence. Well how independent can you be of your boss who pays you to do work for him at his plant? Is this independence or back-biting?

Indeed, it looks more like biting the hands that feed you.

The question may well be asked then, about the Government complaining and quarrelling about the obvious anti-government bias purveyed at the independent Voice of Barbados in certain popular programmes, when the Government does not seem to have full control over its own new station, CBC. Freedom of expression is to be encouraged. One says "hoorah" to that.

But should it be encouraged so persistently to the disadvantage and at the expense of the Government?

The Government has a personality too in its own right. It must be treated with respect and fairness. A government hurts and feels pain like anybody else, because a government is made up of men and women. It must not always be thought of in the abstract. It has flesh and blood too.

The best a government can do in these circumstances of obvious bias and unfairness is to monitor, check and control by the established laws, and the licences it grants under law. It can counter-attack too by its own programmes. But sometimes you cannot trust some of the very people you are relying upon to counter-attack.

Some are "fifth-columnists". This not withstanding, the effort to scotch and defeat the subtle opposition must go on. The so-called Feedback programme on VOB started out as a genuine community based programme

with problems in the society raised for cross-discussion.

But it seems now that Feedback has become a political forum, where supporters of the DLP seem to have a field-day for attacking the Government.

Maybe CBC, the Government-owned station, should host a counter programme of equal effectiveness. Or, supporters of the Government party, should mount a campaign to monitor and intervene on Feedback in a massive way to state the BLP Government's position.

Or, in the further alternative, Feedback should be forced to revert to its original design and intention or withdraw altogether. Leave party politics to the platforms and the Legislature. But put the genuine community concerns on the airwaves.

Initial Government Reaction

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Aug 83 p 2

[Text]

The Minister of Information, Senator Nigel Barrow, has had his attention drawn to a news item broadcast on CBC-TV news and published in the local print media.

Both stories referred to an editorial in the August edition of the Beacon newspaper entitled "Freedom of Expression".

The Minister has pointed out that on reading the editorial he noted that it neither called for media control by Government nor does it put any case for government having a final say on news. Indeed the Beacon's editorial explicitly states:

"Control is therefore necessary in the final analysis: not control in the sense that media put

forth only what the government wants and directs or that the views of the government must be sought out before a news item goes forth on the airwaves." No! that would be something of a dictatorship."

The omission of this from the CBC report resulted in the complete distortion of the views expressed by the editorial writer.

The Minister therefore wishes to restate the declared commitment of his government and his party to freedom of expression in all sections of the media and in the community at large and to say that the way for control to be achieved is for the profession of journalism to regulate itself as other professions do. (BGIS).

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 17 Aug 83 p 7

[Commentary by E.L.C.: "The Threat to Press Freedom"]

[Text]

INCREDIBLE! Unbelievable! Discreditable and highly suspicious! Thomas Jefferson must be spinning in his grave! My faith in this government will be shaken to the core if the Prime Minister makes no move to contradict the threat to Press freedom made in the official organ of the Barbados Labour Party I am surprised, staggered, startled and stumped!

The writer in *The Beacon* clearly suffers from the disease common to all authoritarians: that the State and the People are identical terms. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

The State, in its more tangible form, consists of a group of men, ordinary men, elected by us to run the affairs of the country. In the same way, every cricket club in Barbados elects a President and Committee of Management to run its business.

But the People and the club members are not the politicians and the club officers. The People and members are the employers of them, and must at all times be free to check on their performance, and to throw them out in the manner usually provided by the rules.

In exercising their several and individual judgments, such People and members must have access to such facts and opinions as will help them to make correct decisions.

It is true that they may also be affected by false assertions, but these are open to contradiction and rebuttal by those whom they most damage. Indeed, the law is so designed as to afford protection for them against falsities and derogations. This is adequate. More, and we, the People, stand in danger of dangerous men who would fetter us, and use us for their selfish ends.

The reasons cited by the *Beacon* writer are fatuous in the extreme, and beg several questions from us all.

The first reason, as all Barbadians will appreciate, is an insult to each and every Barbadian. We are so gullible, so credulous, such Simple Simons, so completely ignorant, such pushovers, that we believe without question everything heard or seen emanating from the news media, giving them the power to fashion and condition the thought processes of us, citizens.

The writer then asserts that such power to fashion and condition us must rest with the government — "Control is therefore absolutely necessary in the final analysis." Claptrap of the very first order, ends such sophistry could only come from an evil mind.

I am sure that I speak for the vast majority of Barbadians when I say that we would far prefer to listen to all sides of a question, rather than be brain-washed by one side, however near to divinity its claims.

The other reasons are equally fallacious.

On the one hand, the writer complains that the operatives at the Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation seems to arrogate to themselves the power to state all sorts of comments, heavily slanted against the Government, without fear of reprimand.

Yet this is exactly what he argues should be done, except that, in his arrangements, the slanting would be heavily in favour of the government. I suggest that what he needs to work out is that those employed at CBC become aware of objective journalism. Since government is their employer, such awareness should not be difficult of achievement.

According to him: "They (CBC) put on commentators who are obvious critics of the present Government, without seeking to balance those critical views by supporting the Government." Many of us will not have been

aware of such biases, but, then, our outlooks may be less touchy, and our consciences less charged with feelings of guilt.

As to the question of "Government complaining and quarrelling about the obvious anti-government bias purveyed at the independent Voice of Barbados Radio in certain popular programmes," the writer queries whether this should "be encouraged so persistently to the disadvantage and expense of the Government."

Encouraged by whom? *Feedback*, one Programme mentioned, is said to have become a political forum for the Opposition. Surely, it would be very difficult to organise such a programme into a platform. There is no way in which preference of incoming calls could be politically separated. If they seem preponderantly anti-government, then, as is suggested in *The Beacon*, perhaps the supporters of the Government programme should mount a campaign to intervene. That they have not done this yet may be a reflection of their erstwhile enthusiasm.

Finally, *The Beacon* suggests that party politics should be left to the platforms and the Legislature. In other words, you ignorant citizens, mind your civic business, and leave politics to the politicians.

Mind you, this business of restricting the Press to bland, spiceless, spineless role in nothing new.

Many have tried to harness it; and many, greater men, have defended it stoutly. For which reason, special attention is paid to it in the Constitutions of states and nations, including the Constitution of Barbados, which specifically declares that no law shall abrogate, abridge or infringe, or authorise the abrogation, abridgement or infringement of any of the rights and freedoms recognised by the Constitution — and these include freedom of the Press.

Nuff said. Meanwhile I await the Prime Minister's pronouncement.

DLP Condemnation

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Aug 83 p 2

[Text]

The Opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP) has come out against the views and sentiments expressed recently in an editorial of the Beacon, the newspaper of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP).

The controversial editorial, published last August 5, has been interpreted widely as calling for government control of the media.

In a statement issued by the DLP yesterday, Party President Brantford Taitt said that "all right-minded Barbadians must view the editorial with deep alarm, especially in the light of what in our view is the quite naive statement by the Minister responsible for Information." Members of the DLP, Mr. Taitt said, "completely dis-associate ourselves from any such policy or thinking."

Minister of Information, Senator Nigel Barrow, recently defended the controversial editorial saying it neither called for media control nor put any case for government having a final say on news. He also argued that the controversy had been caused by a misinterpretation of the editorial.

The DLP statement pointed especially to one paragraph in the editorial which, it said, was instructive of the philosophy which informed the Expressions in the editorial. This paragraph read: "The Government has a personality too in its own

right..." and "...hurts and feels pain like anybody else." It has been misinterpreted by the DLP as suggesting that the government is close to "victimisation and retaliation for real or imagined wrongs" against it.

Mr. Taitt said the DLP believed instead that government should be of laws and not of people, and that this was "a basic requirement of democracy."

The DLP statement also condemned the idea expressed in the editorial that "ultimate responsibility for public information must rest with the government of the day." This, it said, was "completely alien to all that is desirable in our community", and pursuit of such a concept would lead to "further erosion of the freedom not only of the Press but of the populations as a whole."

The statement also cautioned all Barbadians to speak out against every single action which sought to interfere with their human rights, classifying the Beacon editorial as being one such action.

It further recalled the BLP Government's attempt to pass its version of an Emergency Powers Bill which, it said, had clauses that sought to remove certain inherent rights from Barbadians. In light of this, the statement continued, the "bold and ruthless assertions" in the editorial must be viewed with even greater seriousness.

Further Government Response

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

Minister of Culture, Senator Nigel Barrow, yesterday outlined Government's position regarding the August 5 editorial entitled, "Freedom of expression" which appeared in the ruling Barbados Labour Party's (BLP) organ, The Beacon.

Senator Barrow, after touring the new CBC radio transmitter facility in Black Rock, St. Michael, said, "the practice of Government has not been what was reflected in that editorial."

He said the editorial had not reflected party policy, and he noted what was "of particular concern is that an editorial writer

should have been so idiosyncratic as to think that an editorial of the party organ was the place for him to express his private views." He added that the editorial of a party organ should instead express the official party policy.

The Senator said to the best of his knowledge, the editorial board had not seen the article before it went to print, adding, "if the editorial board had seen the editorial, it would not have gone."

The editorial made suggestions for media control by Government, and cited specifically a Voice of Barbados (VOB) programme "Feedback", which the editorial writer referred to as "a political forum, where supporters of the

DLP seem to have a field day for attacking the Government."

The same editorial stated in another section, "Control is therefore absolutely necessary in the final analysis."

Senator Barrow was touring the soon to be opened transmitter station of CBC Radio, which when put into action, is expected to reach out to listeners as far north as Barbuda and possibly Jamaica as well as to the entire Eastern Caribbean. When the transmitter cuts into service, the transmissions will revert to the earlier directional system, as opposed to the present omnidirectional method which sends out a signal equally in all directions.

Journalists' Dismay

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 21 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

The recently formed Barbados Association of Journalists (BAJ) has described the editorial in the "Beacon", organ of the ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP), as exceeding all bounds of propriety by the manner in which it attacked the media in Barbados.

The association in a statement also said it did not accept the right of any individual to exclude or expel any section of the media from any press conference, a reference to the expulsion of a free-lance journalist Norman Faria from a news conference given by deposed Grenadian leader Eric Gairy.

The statement, the first by BAJ, was issued following a meeting on Friday night at the headquarters of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC). The meeting dealt with both issues, the editorial and the expulsion of Faria, and the election of officers.

The full text of the statement reads:

The Barbados Association of Journalists welcomes the statement made on August 18 by the Minister of Information and Culture, Senator Nigel Barrow, disassociating the Barbados Government from an editorial of "Freedom of Expression" which appeared in the Beacon, organ of the ruling Barbados Labour Party.

At the same time, however, the Association views with great alarm and dismay the views expressed in the editorial and its frightening implications for the local media.

The highly controversial editorial appeared in the Beacon on August 5, but it was not until there was some strong reaction against it that Senator Barrow's statement that the editorial was contrary to the BLP Government's policy was made.

Following a report on the Beacon's editorial by the Caribbean News Agency on August 15, and carrying of sections of it in the local media on August 16, Senator Barrow reacted by choosing to explain that in his view the editorial did not advocate media control by the government, nor did it put any case for government having a last say on news.

Senator Barrow's statement on August 18 made clear government's position on press freedom and freedom of expression. This, in the final analysis, differs fundamentally from his

earlier reaction and also from the arguments in the Beacon's editorial.

The Association regards the Beacon editorial as exceeding all bounds of propriety by the manner in which it attacked the media in Barbados in general, but in particular the journalists at CBC and VOB, going so far as to suggest that journalists at the state-owned CBC, by expression of their views were "biting the hands that feed them."

The Association considered the matter of the expulsion of free-lance journalist Norman Faria from a press conference given by Sir Eric Gairy on Wednesday, and said it does not accept the right of any individual to exclude or expel any section of the press from any press conference.

CSO: 3298/915

EDITORIAL STRESSES NEED TO DIVERSIFY UNDER CIB

FL141747 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 7 Sep 83 p 4

[Editorial: "CBI No Magic Carpet"]

[Excerpts] The much talked about--and sometimes maligned--Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) now seems to be about to do some good for the region, and Barbados has been assessed as having a good chance to be a major beneficiary.

This assessment has been made by Mr George Fitch of the United States Department of Commerce, a member of a high powered mission from the U.S. who visited Barbados over the past several days talking with government officials about the CBI legislation.

Rhetoric has flowed both pro and con the CBI because of what has been perceived as too much U.S. involvement in the area on the one hand, and as a sop to a satellite region by an ominant self-seeking power broker on the other.

Pragmatic realities demonstrate that Barbados and the Caribbean need a fillip in terms of trade opportunity and investment. The CBI offers these. Duty free entry for exports for 12 years is an attractive avenue to increased earnings, the chance for private American investment is another that holds a promise of more jobs and diverse skills accruing to Barbados.

While the need in the 1950s and 60s was for diversification away from an agricultural mono-culture economy based on sugar cane, the call in the 1980s is: Export or perish. The CBI holds out a special avenue of export where Barbadian products enjoy preferential treatment.

Duty free entry to a multi-million consumer market will not of itself ensure profit and success. A great many factors are involved. Can we fill quotas and deliver on time? Can we ensure high volume and unwavering high quality at one and the same time? Can we satisfy the foregoing criteria and still sell at competitive prices?

Barbados rum is the best in the world and the United States is becoming aware of rum as a party lubricator and a social asset. Again, can we maintain large supplies of high quality product for the market opportunity offered us? Barbados light, aromatic types of rum are frequently a surprise to North Americans who know heavy, dark pungent rums--and tend to shy away from them.

One other benefit of the CBI plan is that Barbados may be designated as a most favoured territory where United States conventioners can deduct money spent here as business expenses off their income tax returns. Should this occur, the desired tourism fillip would be possible--but we should also realise that there is the handicap of high air fares and competition from the Bahamas and Jamaica.

The CBI offers opportunities for trade profit. It is no magic carpet to effortless success. We will have no profit if there are no goods to trade. Our industries and agriculture must show that they can seize the opportunities and turn them to our economic advantage.

CSO: 3298/1301

GOVERNMENT AIMS TO REDUCE ENERGY USE BY 15 PERCENT

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 21 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Barbados Government is hoping to achieve a 15 percent reduction in the consumption of energy, "without doing violence to the people's standard of living".

According to Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, studies have shown that some 15 percent of the total energy used could be put to other uses if it was efficiently utilised.

Speaking at a Press conference at his Government headquarters office yesterday Senator Griffith declared: "I want to emphasise that energy conservation does not mean a drop in the standard of living in Barbados ... conservation must be seen as another source of supply of energy."

He pointed out that work done on the question of changing lighting fixtures had shown that a change from one incandescent light to a fluorescent one, if done in every home, could save some \$550 000 a year, without interfering with the consumer's ability to

benefit from the lighting system.

The energy minister explained that it was a matter of educating people to "simple house-keeping matters, not only domestic, but also in terms of the internal management of an enterprise".

He said that it was difficult to say how much in terms of dollars could be trimmed off the island's oil import bill, since there were factors of fluctuations and the whole question of price relationship, but he added that the 15 percent reduction target was indeed attainable.

Government was serious about energy conservation and firmly believed that with the full co-operation of the business community, householders and the Press a better understanding of energy issues would be aimed at.

Griffith said he was satisfied that if Barbados was effective in this area, it could make a significant impact on the country's vulnerability to the external decisions which affected oil prices.

CSO: 3298/910

OPPOSITION CALLS FOR CHANGES IN GOVERNMENT ENERGY POLICY

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 12 Aug 83 p 2

[Text]

Dr. Richie Haynes, Opposition spokesman on finance and Planning, has urged the Government to change the direction of its energy policy without delay and "pass on to the people the benefits of the fall in oil prices."

"The price of gasoline, diesel, electricity, and water can all be substantially reduced," stated Dr. Haynes, and this would be a welcome tonic to the economy and bring much needed relief to every householder in the country," Dr. Haynes said yesterday.

The rise in oil prices which OPEC imposed had the effect of a massive excise tax, pre-empting vital foreign exchange earnings and severely affecting price levels and employment opportunities throughout many parts of the world, Dr. Haynes said.

"Our Government, through serious miscalculation, is now pursuing an energy policy which has precisely the same effect here at home. Unlike many other oil-importing countries, our Government has been unable to pass on the benefits of the fall in oil prices to its citizens," Dr. Haynes claimed.

He said a new energy policy must be implemented and it should be based on the following fundamental considerations:

- The Barbados National Oil Company should not be permitted to incur the projected losses nor should it be allowed to incur any new debts. To do so would be throwing good money after bad;

- A careful analysis of the likely movement in oil prices in the short and medium term;

- Security of supply of oil products;

- The interest of the region as a whole; and

- The strengthening of our export position.

According to Dr. Haynes, the international economic and financial situation indicated that, unless there was a major war in the Middle East, oil prices would largely be determined by demand and the pressing need to maintain the integrity of the Western Banking System.

"These counter-balancing factors will exert an important moderating influence on the movement of

oil prices even if there is an unexpectedly strong recovery in the world economy. It is therefore reasonable to base our oil policy on the assumption that over the next five to ten years there will be no dramatic increase in oil prices such as was experienced over the past nine years," Dr. Haynes said.

He said this altered situation made the Barbados oil market far more attractive to Trinidad "and we, in turn, desperately need free and guaranteed access to the Trinidad market for our manufacturers."

"Once we have adequate storage facilities for about three or four months' supply, we need not worry about security of supply of oil products," Dr. Haynes said.

He added that the Government should not be afraid, therefore, to take bold and imaginative policy initiatives and —

- (a) Work towards the winding up of the operations of the Mobil "Topping" Refinery;

- (b) Negotiate the purchase of the oil products we need from Trinidad through the CARICOM Multilateral Clearing Facility;

- (c) Minimise the inevitable continuing losses incurred in the production of our crude oil by entering into a further agreement with Trinidad to handle our oil at the best price we can negotiate.

"These three steps will save Barbadian tax-payers a substantial portion of the Bds\$31 million annually which I referred to in an earlier statement," Dr. Haynes said. "We will not, unfortunately, be able to save on the cost of servicing the loan we had to make to purchase the assets of Mobil Exploration Limited or the operational losses."

"However, the price of gasoline, diesel, electricity and water should consequently drop substantially, and this will have a beneficial effect throughout the entire economy," he added.

He said: "Mobil Exploration Limited took us for a ride when we bought its assets and we need not shed any tears over the closing of the Mobil 'Topping' Refinery. Mobil has tried to sell it in the past and will certainly do so again if a purchaser can be found."

POLLUTION CONTROLS INCLUDED IN OFFSHORE OIL CONTRACT

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 14 Aug 83 p 36

[Article by Tony Best]

[Text]

WHEN the BDS\$60 million off-shore drilling operations begin in Barbados, the country's valuable tourist industry will be protected against losses and off-shore pollution.

The protection is in the form of a clause, in the product-sharing contract, now being negotiated between the Barbados Ministry of Energy and a foreign company.

Disclosing details of the negotiations, the Minister of Energy, Senator Clyde Griffith, said Cabinet in approving guidelines for oil drilling expeditions in Barbados waters, had insisted on a provision to protect the tourist industry.

"There was con-

side-able lobbying in Cabinet on the whole matter of off-shore pollution ...," the minister disclosed.

In negotiating conditions approved by Cabinet, Griffith said there was a clause which would take into consideration the need for pollution control.

Under terms of the contract, the company would take the risk of seismic work and would also absorb the cost of the drilling operations, in exchange for the sharing of revenue from any oil discovered.

According to the senator, the contract also gives the company a two-year period in which the seismic work must be completed before actual drilling gets underway.

Of the total cost, between BDS\$3 000 000 and BDS\$12 000 000 will be spent on seismic work, with the remainder going on actual drilling in 6 000 feet of water (OLADE).

CSO: 3298/910

ADAMS PREDICTS THIRD WIN FOR BLP IN SPEECH TO VOTERS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Barbados Labour Party (BLP) "will be returned to power for a third time."

This confident prediction was made last Sunday evening by party leader, Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams as he addressed the monthly general meeting of his St. Thomas constituency at the Rock Hall community centre.

Mr. Adams was responding to expressions of concern from some of the party members present, that the BLP, over the past few months, appeared to be rapidly losing a large measure of its popularity, especially among young people.

The Prime Minister admitted that the country was experiencing some poor economic times but said he was confident that there would soon be a turn-around and there will be improvements in the tourist and sugar industries.

He said the rate of new houses being built will be significantly improved; tree crop agriculture in parishes such as St. Thomas and St. Andrew was being developed and with the recovery of the American economy, companies such as Intel would be encouraged to expand their operations in the island.

"Do not be carried away by the Dems' (Democratic Labour Party) tactics of confusion," he said, adding: "We have to exhort people to be of good cheer. Don't let pessimism get you down."

Mr. Adams declared that on the basis of its accomplishments over the past seven years, and the firm signs of better times to come, despite the present difficulties, he was confident the party would be returned to office for a third time. (Elections are constitutionally due in 1986.)

He said the standard of living in Barbados had doubled over the past seven years and had reached the same level as some Western European countries, and this was something that hardly any other country in the world could boast about.

ahead and spend limited funds on the smaller schools because it would be wiser to expand and modernise the bigger ones or build newer and more centralised schools.

He said this had to be balanced against the fact that closing schools would mean a reduction in the number of teachers, which could bring further hardships on some people.

Mr. Adams said he was calling on his constituents to help put an end to parish politics and assist in the effort to build the island as a whole, because development could not occur unless the entire economy was strengthened.

"The current is running in favour of the BLP," he said, "the leadership of the party has not lost its way."

He declared that the Opposition Democratic Labour Party had not yet put forward any better policy alternatives to the BLP and that they had failed to excite the people of Barbados on what they could do.

The Prime Minister responded to criticism from one of the members present that no new development, especially in the field of education, was happening in St. Thomas, by stating that this was not entirely true. He said there were trends presently taking place in the parish which had to be carefully analysed before any substantial commitments could be made.

In education, Mr. Adams noted that parents were now becoming more concerned about the quality of education their children were receiving and were therefore transferring them from the smaller schools which had fewer facilities to larger and newer ones which were better equipped.

The Prime Minister said that because of this, Government could not go

TAITT GALVANIZES DLP ACTION IN ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 12 Aug 83 p 12

[Text]

THE leadership of the Opposition Democratic Labour Party is not in jeopardy, according to president, Mr. Branford Taitt.

Mr. Taitt told a group of over 300 new party members at DLP Headquarters Wednesday night, that it was customary at this time of year, to escalate attempts to create confusion among the ranks of the party.

He urged them not to allow rumour-mongers in other political parties to dissuade them from putting their full support behind the party's political leader, Mr. Errol Barrow.

He told his audience: "For good or ill, they (rumour-mongers) always manage to import me and my good name into their mischievous shenanigans."

He said the question of leadership of the DLP should be likened unto the West Indies team of 1961.

Taitt said at that time Sir Frank Worrell, by cricket standards, was not as agile as he had been in 1950. But, according to Taitt, it was Worrell's sagacity, his interest, his love and his presence which breathed life and cohesion into the team.

Mr. Taitt invited those present to make the analogy between the West Indies team under Sir Frank and the Dems under Errol Barrow.

He emphasised: "As long as Mr. Barrow is willing to provide the inspiration, we will bowl and bat our hearts out."

"None who has seen the leader of the Opposition in his four-hour marathon speech (on the Emergency Powers Bill) in Parliament during this very session could give credence to the vicious and puerile attempts to destroy the fabric of this Democratic Labour Party," Mr. Taitt said.

Welcoming the new members, Mr. Taitt congratulated those 300 persons who had taken the "bold step".

He said: "As we survey the social, political and economic landscape of our community, your decision to demonstrate your active interest in the affairs of our day-to-day existence becomes even more important than perhaps it ought to."

He said that never before had it been necessary for men and women of goodwill to speak out against the way of life which day after day shouted of the moral paralysis which inflicted the society.

Taitt urged members to put the interest of their country above and beyond all other interests, including the party itself.

CSO: 3298/914

FOREIGN-OWNED HOTELS SAID TO HAVE ADVANTAGE OVER LOCALS

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

The suggestion has been made that foreign-owned hotels in Barbados have locally-owned properties at a disadvantage.

It came from Executive Director of the Barbados Hotel Association, Geoffrey Parris, in a week-end radio interview examining problems and issues in the local tourist industry.

Mr. Parris declares that at present there were a number of hotel companies "not domiciled in Barbados," which because of their overseas connections were able to engage in marketing practices which were to the detriment of locally-based hotels.

He said: "We are dealing with companies not domiciled in Barbados. They have their own concerns to market themselves overseas. They are probably better versed in overseas markets than we are and we don't know what they are doing corporate-wise; what shifts are taking place in their ownership structure, business directions and policies."

Mr. Parris added: "They can be coming to limits over which they can go out of business and we don't know until they have gone past."

Mr. Parris, in dealing with the question of cut-rate room prices for which a number of large hotels in Barbados have recently come under fire from BHA President, Mr. Alfred

Taylor, said: "It is a free enterprise system. We don't control rates. It is in our best interest to provide the framework within which all types of hotels can compete equally to gain their share of business."

"Whether a hotel chooses to cut prices or not, the hotels must be able to market themselves to get after their business; to identify that business; and must be given as much support as we and the Board of Tourism can possibly give to facilitate that. There must be an ability to compete," Mr. Parris added.

Regarding the other problems facing the industry, Mr. Parris said that it was a situation which required the utmost co-operation between the hotels, tourism-related services, Government, the Board of Tourism and the Ministry of Tourism.

"Once we get to this stage, I believe the answers and solutions will be forthcoming quite quickly as long as people understand the competition is not between the hotels here. It is between us and the rest of the world," he stressed.

However, Mr. Parris warned: "They (the hotels) must realise that a hotel which gains the most business by offering the lowest prices to the extent that all of its neighbours go out of business, that hotel isn't going to survive either."

BRAZILIAN ENVOY AIRS PLANS FOR POSSIBLE JOINT VENTURES

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Jewel Brathwaite]

[Text] Brazil yesterday announced it is studying the possibility of sending a commercial mission to Barbados to explore the possibility of investment and joint ventures between the two countries.

Charged d-Affaires at the Brazilian Embassy in Bridgetown, Mr. Romeo Zero told of the plans as he explained his country's desire to improve economic links with Barbados and other Eastern Caribbean territories.

He said the mission was likely to visit the Caribbean next year when members will be meeting with private sector officials.

"One of our wishes is to increase trade and services with Barbados," Mr Zero said.

He said it was important to maintain good relations with regional countries since "we share similar views on all in-

ternational issues, economic, apartheid, independence for Namibia (South West Africa), and non-intervention with Caribbean states."

He said a fishing agreement signed between Brazilian and local concerns was still there, and stated that it can be revived. Under the plan Barbados was allowed to catch shrimp in Brazilian waters. Brazil is currently experiencing economic troubles which have hampered its aid programme.

Three years ago the Brazilian representation in Bridgetown was upgraded from that of a Vice Consulate to Ambassadorial level signifying the increasing importance with which that country viewed Barbados.

Trade between the two is mostly in favour of Brazil, with Barbados according to the Brazilian official, spending on average Bds\$15 million on imported goods from that

South American country.

These goods include plywood, canned meat, motor vehicles, tyres, stoves, tiles, hardware, leather goods and glassware.

The official noted that his country had been offering scholarships to Barbadians but said they were not utilised because of the difference in language between the two countries.

The official language of Brazil is Portuguese. Foreign students wishing to pursue studies in that country would normally be required to have a knowledge of that language.

However, Mr. Zero said that a Barbadian student successfully completed a study programme in diplomacy in Brazil, finishing at the top of the class, and had since taken up appointment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Barbados.

IMMIGRATION REGULATIONS UNDERGOING CHANGES

Rules for Nonresidents

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Non-residents will have to leave Barbados when they are applying for any change in their Immigration status, under new laws to be introduced shortly, the Minister responsible for Immigration, Senator O'Brien Trotman said yesterday.

On filing application forms with the Immigration Department, people who are not Immigrants or Permanent Residents of Barbados must stay outside the country during the time that their requests are under consideration by the local Immigration authorities, the Minister said.

The Minister said that in any country, Immigration Officers could become very uncomfortable when they are constantly confronted by non-nationals whose papers are being processed. This is even more so in a small country like Barbados.

This is a normal condition in several other countries and will be part of the Immigration Regulations now in preparation, Senator Trotman said. Cabinet has already approved them and they will soon be signed into law.

The immigration application forms have already been changed with the addition of a column for the non-national to indicate details of intended departure from Barbados. (BGIS)

Use of CARICOM ID's

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Aug 83 p 2

[Excerpt] The Barbados Government is considering acceptance of National Registration I.D. Cards from citizens of Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries for entry into Barbados.

In taking this step, Barbados would be setting up a system similar to an arrangement in the European Economic Community (EEC) that could facilitate smooth movement of people in the Caribbean Community.

Barbados' Caricom partners are being informed of this consideration through the Georgetown-based Secretariat. Guyana has already notified the Secretariat that it would accept the National ID-Registration Cards.

At the same time, Barbados is also considering refusal of the Caricom Travel Document in its present format and has advised the Secretariat accordingly.

Nationals of member-states are presently permitted to enter Barbados on the common regional travel document. However, there has been growing abuse of the system, and this has put additional strain on the Barbadian immigration authorities as well as the economy.

Jamaica does not accept the Caricom Travel Document.

"Illegal entry into Barbados by Caricom nationals is greatly facilitated by the use of the Caribbean Travel Document in its present format and the other areas of identification," says the Minister responsible for Immigration, Senator O'Brien Trotman.

"Barbados has therefore advised the Caricom Secretariat that the Government will stop the use of the present Inter-Caribbean Travel Permit unless the other member countries agree to enter the National Registration Numbers on their passports and Travel documents," the Minister said.

He added: "Barbados would be prepared to accept as a valid travel document, National

Registration Cards of a kind similar to that issued in Barbados, provided the Caricom nationals do not remain in Barbados for more than 17 days."

BEACH EROSION MOVING NORTH, THREATENING HOMES

Bridgetown THE NATION in English 16 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Cheryl Harewood]

[Text] **BEACH EROSION** which was first noticed on the south-east coast of Barbados five years ago has made its way up to the north coast. Residents of the Colleton, St. Lucy, and Six Men's Bay, St. Peter areas are experiencing serious problems as a result of the erosion of their beach lands.

In fact, residents of both areas say that since Hurricane Allen in 1980, life has not been the same for them.

Residents who at first lost their backyards to the on-creeping tides, soon found that their entire houses were threatened. The situation is getting worse, they say.

One of the oldest residents of Colleton, 92-year-old Gertrude Gib-

bons showed me how the high seas are at her back door, and her small house is losing its props.

She no longer uses the back of her house as an entrance. It is merely a direct exit from the house to the sea. She needs to be relocated but has been told to identify a spot and Government will remove her.

"They told me that they have no more spots to relocate people," she said yesterday.

Theresa Connell also of Colleton has lost too, a section of her out-house and piling, to the hurricane, heavy rains and erosion.

She said she was willing to be resited, but was awaiting word from her MP.

However despite efforts made to secure her home, Ms. Connell is still faced with the problems in her background. She said, "We were told by our representative that we would be removed to Six Men's Bay. So far, nothing has been done."

Another Colleton resident, Daphne Graves, said that owing to the erosion and the falling of trees, she had to spend over \$2 000 constructing a groyne which she said "is helping a bit".

RECONSTRUCTION

Graves said some residents were forced to reconstruct their kitchens and outhouses in order to prevent water from entering their homes.

Representative for St. Peter, Mr. Burton Hinds, said yesterday the matter was being looked into by other members of Government, but declined to say who those members were.

However, civil engineer Carl Padmore, currently attached to the Ministry of Housing coastal conservation project said the authorities were aware of the problem, but were not doing anything physically to have the matter rectified.

He said after April next year, the matter would be looked into more fully, but he was not in the position to say when the residents would be resited.

AGRICULTURAL UNIT ESTABLISHED IN MARKETING CORPORATION

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

An Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS) division has been set up within the Barbados Marketing Corporation (BMC).

This announcement was made by the corporation which also revealed four components of its marketing thrust aimed at increasing the market size for local produce.

The Corporation said it had recently obtained assistance through a

project funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme to further develop the division.

Additional support will be provided from resources within the BMC.

The four components according to the corporation, are export marketing of vegetables and root crops, processing, increasing

the demand for local fresh produce, and increasing self-sufficiency.

The state-run body said one of the main aspects of its recent reorganisation was increased focus on the provision of agricultural marketing services to farmers in the interest of successfully stimulating greater production in the non-sugar agricultural sector.

"To this end, an Agricultural Marketing Services (AMS) division has been set up within the BMC," the BMC declared.

The marketing thrust is to be approached and implemented on a commodity basis, with priority commodities within each commodity group being looked at individually in the context of their viability with one or more of the components of the thrust.

This strategy has been endorsed by the National Agricultural Advisory Committee.

The BMC said that a sound information system was essential to the success of the approach and this is currently being done by the Barbados Agricultural Statistical Information Service (BASIS) set up by the corporation last year.

NEW GOVERNMENT PRICE SUPPORT ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR SUGAR

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 16 Aug 83 p 1

[Article by Avonda Scott]

[Text]

Sugar factories in Barbados will be in serious financial straits unless Government assists them with another price support formula this year.

Last year, Government injected a Bds\$20 million support mechanism into the industry, for many years Barbados' main export crop and on which the island's economy has relied heavily.

Although this money went some way towards relieving some of the difficulties being faced by the industry, many factories still found themselves in the red at

the end of this year's crop.

Chief Executive Director of the new Barbados Sugar Industry Limited, Mr. Errie Deane, said yesterday that this year's production of 85 000 tonnes was small and the price to be received is well below cost of production.

He predicted that the industry could find itself in serious financial straits without further assistance from Government.

This year's sugar

harvest was the lowest since 1947.

But Government is anticipating an output of about 120 000 tonnes next year as part of reaching the target of 150 000 tonnes by 1985 and has suggested that great improvement in efficiency at the field and factory level be made.

Improved efficiency and an incentive to encourage the reaping of green canes were among the conditions attached to the price support formula.

Government also

established a Sugar Industry research and development Committee, whose functions include assessing the work programmes and results of organisations having research and development functions in the growing, harvesting, handling and processing of sugar cane.

Agriculture Minister Dr. Richard Cheltenham, has already disclosed that Government is looking at the "pros" and "cons" of another support mechanism for the industry.

CSO: 3298/914

BRIEFS

JAPANESE ASSISTANCE--Three Japanese experts are due here this weekend for talks with government and agriculture officials as Barbados moves to revive its once thriving sea island cotton industry, it was reported today. It is expected that the Japanese will meet with Agriculture Minister Dr. Richard (Johnny) Cheltenham and other government officials. Japan had indicated a willingness to assist Barbados with the revival of the industry during a visit to Tokyo by a trade mission last June headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade, Bernard St. John. On his return, St. John had said that the mission was essentially to try to get Japanese businessmen involved in joint ventures or licensing arrangement with local businessmen so that they could take advantage of the Japanese specialised knowledge and technology. Speaking of the sea island cotton in which local farmers had an interest up to five years ago on two locations on the island's windswept south coast, St. John said: "We stressed that farmers will not grow cotton if they are not going to get a remunerative price for it." He said the Japanese were told: "One of the constraints that we had to cotton production was the fact that the farmers felt that they did not get an adequate price and one way to ensure an adequate price was to ensure at least that part of the manufacturing process is carried out in the Caribbean." (CANA) [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 21 Aug 83 p 2]

DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT--Barbados has reported a tiny drop in its unemployment rate for the second quarter of this year. A Government statement said data from Barbados continuous household sample survey show that the unemployed as a percentage of the labour force for the period April to June stood at 14.5 percent, a decline of 0.6 percent on the 15.1 percent figure for the corresponding period in 1982. The number of adults increased from 173,500 in the second quarter of 1982 to 174,000 during the period under review. The labour force decreased by 1,900 persons from 113,700 persons in the 1982 period to 111,800 persons in 1983. Of these 60,300 persons were males and 51,500 females. The number of persons employed was 95,600 as compared with 96,500 persons for the second quarter of 1982. Those not in the labour force increased from 59,800 persons in 1982 to 62,300 for the review quarter. The labour force as a percentage of the number of adults declined from 65.5 percent from April to June, 1982 to 64.2 percent for the review quarter. (CANA) [Text] [Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 21 Aug 83 p 1]

NEW CO-OP OFFICERS--The newly-formed Barbados Workers' Union Co-operative Society Limited has elected its committee of management. President of the Committee is Senator Evelyn Greaves (BWU); vice president, Frank Crimes (Caribbean Broadcasting Corporation), secretary, Robert Morris (BWU headquarters); assistant secretary, Margaret Wiltshire (BWU); and treasurer, Alwyn Tull (formerly of the Post Office Division). Miss Icílma Johnson of the non-academic staff of the Cave Hill Campus of the University of the West Indies has been elected chairman of the supervisory committee. Secretary of that committee is Clifford Mayers (BWU) and standing member, Leroy Trotman (BWU). General Secretary of the BWU, Mr. Frank Walcott, has been named chairman of the Credit Committee. Secretary is Vere Rock (BWU) and sitting member, Maurice Hall of the Sandy Lane Hotel division. [Text] [Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Aug 83 p 2]

CSO: 3298/916

BRIEFS

LIVESTOCK IMPROVEMENT AID--Belize City, Belize, 3 Sep (CANA)--Belize's Prime Minister George Price and Natural Resources Minister Florencio Marin have signed an agreement for a (U.S.)\$1.3 million livestock improvement project with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The project is designed to rectify production inefficiency, expand markets and encourage more output for small and medium livestock procedures here. The project also provides for financial and technical assistance for swine improvement, pasture improvement and pork and beef processing operations. It will be implemented over a period of 2 to 3 years. [Text] [FLO51257 Bridgetown CANA in English 2105 GMT 3 Sep 83]

PUBLISHER'S LIBEL FINE--Belize City, Belize, 3 Sep (CANA)--Editor and publisher of the Belize City newspaper THE AMANDALA, Evan Hyde, has been found guilty of libelling Minister of Energy and Communications Louis Sylvestre. Hyde, a graduate of Dartmouth College in the United States, has been ordered to pay compensation in the sum of (U.S.)\$3,250 to the minister, who is also chairman of the governing People's United Party (PUP). Minister Sylvestre took court action against Hyde as a result of an article published in THE AMANDALA in July 1981. The article charged that Sylvestre was involved in corrupt practices and that he was using his ministerial position for personal gains. Hyde was unable to prove the charges in court. Chief Justice Barbados-born Goerge Moe said: "The weight of the evidence left with me, whether unwittingly or not, is that the plaintiff's reputation for honesty and integrity is low." [Text] [FLO51257 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 3 Sep 83]

CSO: 3298/1302

SUCCESSION STATEMENTS NEARLY SPARK MINISTERS' RESIGNATIONS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Sep 83 p 8

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] Yesterday was anticlimactic in Brasilia: Air Minister Delio Jardim de Mattos traveled to Rio, while his navy and army colleagues devoted themselves to military business; the Social Democratic Party (PDS) senators who lunched with Brigadier Delio on Saturday regarded as closed the episode that was set off by the leaks of the talks supposedly held; and Interior Minister Mario Andreazza went to the Northeast in another round of inspection and inauguration of projects. President Joao Figueiredo received in Planalto Palace Senator Eunice Michiles and Deputy Nelson Marchezan, in addition to Mines and Energy Minister Cesar Cals, none of them producing any significant political news.

The routine news channels have kept mum and, as on previous occasions, it will end up being the fault of the press. Not, it will, but it has. Because on the eve, the ineffable spokesman of the presidency of the republic spoke about the existence of "a gross plot."

Considering that the comments of Mister Carlos Atila unpardonable, insidious and offensive--because he is not a journalist but a diplomat, he does not have a commitment to the truth, quite the contrary--it is worthwhile recapitulating the facts that caused an uproar and apprehension in the federal capital since the end of the week. It is worth noting first that because of the confusion that occurred within the government itself, the air minister almost resigned abruptly, in which he would be followed by his navy comrade, Admiral Maximiano da Fonseca.

As one of President Figueiredo's principal aides, more adviser than minister, even a support for the political liberalization in relation to the military establishment, Brigadier Delio Jardim de Mattos has been concerned about the national situation for some time. As a member of the government and with his loyalty to the chief above any suspicion, for a long time he has been alining doubts and suggestions. Nothing out, everything in. Personally, for example, and without criticizing individuals, he believes it is necessary to seek other courses to overcome the economic crisis, in which, incidentally, he is followed by various ministers. With regard to the succession picture, he

is obviously on the side of whomever General Joao Figueiredo may side with but he does not hide his criticism of Paulo Maluf and his adventure. In April, he even suggested to the president, if he so desired, a visit to the former governor of Sao Paulo by the three military ministers at which time they would not voice a veto but an appeal to the candidate's patriotism to renounce his ambitions in exchange for some commitments. He offered that idea because he had carried it out earlier almost successfully: in 1978 in view of Maluf's dissident candidacy for Bandeirantes Palace during the Ernesto Geisel administration, he sought out the aforementioned citizen in a Sao Paulo apartment and proposed that he leave the race in exchange for compensation. Revolutionary unity would not be broken, the palace candidacy of Laudo Natel would be victorious at the convention of the then National Renewal Alliance (ARENA) and Maluf would win the office of mayor of Sao Paulo and three of four secretariats. Everything was agreed upon, both phoned General Joao Figueiredo, the presidential candidate, in Brasilia and he was elated. It remained to check the agreement with Laudo Natel who, surprisingly did not accept it, thus, calling off the deal, followed months later by the victory of Paulo Maluf.

This time, Delio conceived something similar with the support of the navy and army ministers. He believed that the former governor would not fail to give in to similar, but greater arguments; but after presenting the proposal to Figueiredo, he was not encouraged to develop it. The opportunity for the patriotic appeal passed, the air minister remaining with his concerns and the president with his immobile position, even in the face of Maluf's rise.

With Figueiredo's trip to Cleveland for the bypass operation and the acting presidency of Aureliano Chaves, Delio Jardim de Mattos applauded the good will, the dynamism and the efficiency of the vice president, as many people did. Nonetheless, he did not join his candidacy. First, because he believed that the succession process should remain at a standstill during the president's absence, a policy faithfully followed by Aureliano and Figueiredo's preferred candidate, Mario Andreazza, even though Paulo Maluf, turning a deaf ear, further consolidated his position. Then, because Delio did not, as he does not, have a definite candidate, he assumes the position of accepting whomever the president names.

Because of the seriousness of the health problems faced by Figueiredo in Cleveland, because of Aureliano Chaves' good management, and especially because the country is living in an open regime, the minister even remarked that the president should not hasten to return. That he should convalesce for the time necessary, even traveling in the United States or, if he returned, to rest outside of Brasilia. He even mentioned a house belonging to the navy on the Marambaia bank in Rio.

The process went differently. Whether or not schemed by the so-called "Cleveland group," whether or not fearful of the comparison between his style and the success that the vice president was achieving, Figueiredo advanced his return, took refuge in the Torto farm and reassumed office

earlier than prudence warranted last Friday. In that half-time, reports circulated that several ministers were inclined to suggest that, mounting the ramp of Planalto Palace once again, he examine the possibility of lending a different pace and different mechanics to economic-financial policy. Delio reportedly was one of them but rumors that he had stated his observations in writing have not been confirmed. There would be no reason to, considering closeness between them.

Reassuming his office, Figueiredo preferred to give more power to Delfim Netto and his policy. At a dinner with the Planning Secretariat (SEPLAN) chief at the Torto farm, he authorized him to visit Europe and to begin negotiations for the renegotiation of Brazil's foreign debt, which would first require signing a new agreement with the IMF. That is what is going on at the present time.

In view of the difficulties and the chaos in the economy, the government's uncoordinated policy in the matter of succession, plus the very poor level of relations between the president and the PDS, many segments of the official party have begun to seek solutions. There was even the threat of reelection, a stop-gap term, parliamentarism and other second-hand magic, including the proposal of the return to direct elections, all of it as a formula conceived in the top circles to check the rise of Paulo Maluf, then made the champion of dissidence. Since the growing rebellion in the PDS was feared, channeled toward the former governor of Sao Paulo and risking the approval of the decree-law on the new wage policy, no one agreed, just as all continue to disagree, in view of the placidity and immobile position not only of Minister Leitaõ de Abreu, supposed coordinator, but even of the president of the republic. While his words of harmony and dynamism were laudable last Friday, when he received the government from Aureliano Chaves, the consequences are late in coming. Or, knowing the groupings and positions, everyone is distrustful.

It was, thus, that a group of 14 senators sought out Delio Jardim de Mattos, a sort of oasis in the desert, inasmuch as his supposed opinions had been becoming public. Perhaps he would help remove the obstacles that separate the president and the PDS?

It was the task of Senator Lomanto Junior to organize the group and, coincidentally, 1 day after Figueiredo reassumed office as chief of state, they went to the home of the brigadier in the Peninsula of the Ministers, for an informal luncheon. Like the rest of the public, they did not know whether or not Delio Jardim de Mattos had conveyed their opinions on economic-financial policy to the president. They were more interested in party politics. In finding channels capable of leading Figueiredo to give them recognition and to seek with them specific and over-all solutions for the present situation.

Here, opinions differ. Some senators, among them Lomanto Junior, Jutahy Magalhães and Guilherme Palmeira told the press afterwards that they had heard comments from the minister regarding the conduct of the fight against

inflation and comments on the succession problem. According to their version, Delio reportedly said that the Paulo Maluf-Mario Andreazza duality could lead to a government defeat, so great is the boldness of the former governor of Sao Paulo and the lack of definition by Planalto Palace. He reportedly also emphasized that Figueiredo would not accept Maluf under any circumstances and that Andreazza had military snags, including not being to the liking of Army Minister Walter Pires.

The important thing to point out is that the senators spoke off-the-record, not authorizing publication of their names, which O ESTADO and the JORNAL DA TARDE pointed out in their Tuesday editions.

That same day, we took the initiative to telephone the minister, who denied the breach of confidence by the senators, saying that he was misunderstood. And he even added two important pieces of information: on Sunday, 1 day after the luncheon with the senators, he sought out Mario Andreazza in his home. They are neighbors and talked for more than an hour. He told the interior minister on that occasion that he supported him, denying the stories already circulating that he had proposed the candidacy of Aureliano Chaves to the senators. Of course, he would support him in the event he were named by the president of the republic. He even vehemently denied another rumor, that he himself was a possible candidate. Jokingly, he promised Andreazza that if by chance he, Delio, should become a candidate, his friend was authorized to attack him in the street the first time they met.

Another statement by the air minister to the interior minister was that he knew about the recent meeting between Andreazza and Walter Pires at a social reunion when, asked if he had any reservation about his candidacy or the fact that a colonel might come to preside over generals, the army minister emphasized the contrary: he had nothing against his candidacy and would support it completely if proposed by Figueiredo. The army did not veto anyone, much less a member of the team of its commander in chief.

On Monday, when the most varied stories and rumors about the brigadier's luncheon with the PDS senators circulated, the political temperature rose. Someone heard that the air and navy ministers had gone to the Brasilia Air Base early in the evening. There, they awaited the arrival of the army minister from Rio; the three conferred for more than an hour. Speculation multiplied, not only about the necessity they had found to dispel rumors about vetoes but especially pertaining to a tense atmosphere between the president and the air minister.

With the publication on Tuesday of the report pertaining to the luncheon with the senators, more tension. Figueiredo did not like what he read in the morning and he telephoned Delio, speaking harshly. Then came the denials, even from the air minister to the reporter and then from the Army Communications Media Center denying that Walter Pires vetoed Andreazza. But there was also talk of Delio being prepared to resign his office. In the afternoon, the presidential agenda scheduled a routine meeting of the army and air ministers with the president. There were even doubts about the latter, that

It had reportedly been canceled. It was not, but General Walter Pires, contrary to old habits, remained in the president's office and was present during Delio's talk with Figueiredo. According to some interpretations, to serve as a fireman and prevent greater clashes. There was speculation about the possibility that if the brigadier requested his resignation he would be accompanied by the navy minister, who thinks as he does. Some sources even talked about moving trucks. The chief of the Military Household, General Rubem Ludwig, canceled his commitments and remained in the presidential anteroom.

At night came the words of the spokesman of the presidency of the republic, Carlos Atila: it was all nothing more than a gross plot. The fault of the press.

8711

CSO: 3342/178

IRANIAN INDUSTRY MINISTER ON JOINT INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, TRADE

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Aug 83 p 7

[Interview with Iranian Minister of Industries Mostafa Hashemi; given in Brasilia, on 16 August 1983]

[Text] Sixteen Iranian Government officials have been in Brazil since last Sunday morning led by Minister of Industries Mostafa Hashemi to establish various lines of economic and commercial cooperation with the government and Brazilian private sectors during a period of approximately 1 week.

In Brasilia yesterday, the CORREIO BRAZILIENSE had a nationally exclusive interview with the chief of the Iranian mission, Minister Hashemi, who has already seen Ministers Delfim Netto, Camilo Pena, Cesar Cals--who had a reception for the visitors at a luncheon at his official residence--Delio Jardim de Mattos and Maximiano da Fonseca.

"Our delegation is an economic one and we are discussing the possibility of establishing joint industrial projects in Iran," the minister of industries told us. The 37-year old minister is one of the 20 cabinet ministers of his country which lends the mission a high level of interest on the visitors' side.

It has not been officially confirmed but during the luncheon with Minister Cesar Cals yesterday, the Iranians reportedly assured their Brazilian audience a sure supply of oil without the new demands that are being made by producer countries such as Algeria, Ecuador and Saudi Arabia, which are asking for a letter of guarantee issued by a first-line U.S. bank to finance sales to the country.

In Rio, the Iranian delegation today will begin the second part of its mission which, according to semiofficial sources in the Brazilian Government, achieved complete success in its talks in Brasilia. In Rio, they will have the opportunity to hold contacts with the various lines of trade exchange opened in Teheran on the occasion of the recent visit of Carlos Viacava, director general of the Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department (CACEX). Meanwhile, the same sources assert that the broader scope of that mission headed by a minister of state and not by a department chief such as Viacava has enabled it to achieve extremely favorable results in only 2 days of contacts in Brasilia with five Brazilian ministers.

In Rio, the contacts will be broader in the areas of shipbuilding. In Sao Paulo, the third stage, more intensive contacts with business sectors are envisaged beginning next Friday, especially in the field of advanced technology and capital goods. At no time during their official talks in Brasilia was the possibility of the sale of Brazilian arms to Iran mentioned. Coincidentally also, at no time during its stay in Brasilia did any Brazilian diplomat enter into contact with the mission despite the fact that it had meetings with about five ministers and several other Brazilian officials.

The Interview

In his suite in his hotel in Brasilia, Minister Mostafa Hashemi yesterday afternoon began his exclusive interview with the CORREIO BRAZILIENSE, invoking the ritualistic words: "In the name of Allah, the merciful and compassionate" Hashemi is a member of the government team that is seeking to modernize Iran despite the 3-year war against Iraq. In his conversation with our reporters, he analyzed several aspects which, according to him, mark the contemporary panorama of his country.

[Question] What are your first impressions after the contacts held today with Brazilian officials?

[Answer] In the name of Allah, the merciful and compassionate. We are finding great friendship and a warm reception and have confirmed that there is a real desire to expand trade between the two countries.

[Question] What is the purpose of your mission in Brazil?

[Answer] Ours is an economic delegation and we are discussing the possibility of establishing joint industrial projects in Iran. For that reason, we are seeking opportunities for the purchase of industrial components, of (CKD) parts [as published] to install in our country. In addition, we are interested in the purchase of raw materials, machinery, machine tools and possible agreements in the financial and banking area.

[Question] How long are you going to remain in Brazil?

[Answer] We are going to stay 1 week in all, visiting Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

[Question] Will your mission extend to other Latin American countries?

[Answer] No, we came this time only to Brazil and then will probably visit Iran's neighbor-countries in the Middle East region.

[Question] What has been the development of Iran in the last 5 years?

[Answer] Our economy is growing despite the war and we have sought to establish a greater rapprochement with the countries of the Third World as well as to strengthen multilateral action with the so-called Group of 77.

[Question] Did you come to discuss the sale of oil to Brazil?

[Answer] Our Ministry of Industries does not have responsibility over oil matters; we discussed with Brazilian officials subjects connected with industry and did not deal directly with the sale of oil.

[Question] What is the extent of the losses that the war has already caused to the Iranian industrial park in the last 3 years?

[Answer] There are no factories in the region where the fighting is being waged and for that reason our losses were very small in that sector as a result of the war. However, our industrial park has undergone great changes because there has been improvement in the quality of our manpower. We produce many things. The war gave us a new view of our needs as a result of the difficulties. Despite the fact that we were greatly affected in the oil sector, mainly by the bombings of the Abadan refinery, our capacity for the production and export of oil and its derivatives remains intact. Except for Abadan, everything is running normally in that sector. The losses in Nafjar were also significant.

[Question] The reports transmitted by foreign news agencies indicate that Iran has put an end to the process of modernization. Is that true?

[Answer] The imperialist communications media disseminate reports of losses of development as a result of the revolution. That process continues and is of legitimate interest to Iran. In the field of industry specifically, we have clearly defined objectives seeking to benefit our people. We believe that industry develops science; we believe that the import of machinery is the import of science. We believe that in preparing people to receive or absorb those gains, we are seeking the benefit of our people and not that of the multinational companies. In recent years, we have carried out many industrial projects which before we were not in a position to do at all.

[Question] How much longer is the war going to go on?

[Answer] It will be as long as the enemy is prepared to sustain it. The struggle against Iraq is our primary struggle and we are constantly preparing to sustain it. If it is a 20-year war, we are prepared.

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CSO: 3342/172

ECONOMIC TEAM TO BE RETAINED; POLITICAL COORDINATION CHANGES URGED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Aug 83 p 7

[Article by Carlos Chagas]

[Text] On the economic level, General Joao Figueiredo has taken the decision: he will speak tomorrow, reassuming the office of chief of state eagerly, determined to face the crisis, to seek solutions and avert a debacle. He will say that he is personally committed to a solution and the negotiations with the governments of our creditors but maintaining the same confidence in the cabinet team that advises him. In other words, Delfim Netto will not leave, nor the other ministers in the economic area. On the contrary, they will be strengthened with more power which, incidentally, is already happening. Having invited chief of the Planning Secretariat (SEPLAN) to dinner last week, the president authorized him to leave forthwith to seek accommodations with the Paris Club and force decisions with the IMF, which has just occurred. The renegotiation of the foreign debt, which was already taking place, will be the course emphasized by him together with continuation of the sacrifices. He will also appear to be not disposed to permit talk about a declared unilateral moratorium. The policy to be stressed is to continue to talk, to find mechanisms for getting out of the strangulation and now expand talks with the officials of the various governments. It may be that, as a complementary measure, Figueiredo may announce a readiness to consult society more, including the business community, although hardly the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), but those dialogs will not alter the general lines of the policy in effect.

On the political level, the doubts persist despite the good intentions emphasized in recent days. On Monday, the president promised Senator Jose Sarnay that he would lend prestige to the Social Democratic Party (PDS), forget consequences and strengthen its parliamentary base provided that there is reciprocity, as for example on voting for Decree-Law No 2,045. A day later, he gave Minister Ibrahim Abi-Ackel indications that he will begin to define the courses of the succession, beginning a new phase in his coordination work. The manifest and clear trend runs in favor of the rise of the candidacy of Paulo Maluf, whom Figueiredo does not want and even vetoes, but which is becoming stronger with the passage of weeks. Since Cleveland, and now in Torto Ranch, the president has given signs of having awakened to the situation. He must immediately undertake a neutralizing action or he will not succeed in reversing the trajectory of the former governor of Sao Paulo even if he tries.

Repeated reports conveyed to the main speaker at tomorrow's ceremony in Planalto Palace report not only the strengthening of the Malufist bases in the national congress but of the fruits gathered by him in the states he has been visiting without a break since July. Divaldo Suruagy, governor of Alagoas, notified Figueiredo Tuesday through a special emissary that the passage of Maluf through his state caused "disarray" among what had been solid structures. The same thing happened in Pernambuco, Sergipe and Ceara. In the Northeast, the former governor had a meager base among the state delegations to the party's national convention but now, it has grown. Just as it has grown also in Minas, Amazonas and Para. He himself says that he is the only presidential hopeful capable of spending 2 hours in a National Housing Bank (BNH) low-cost housing two-room apartment talking to the mother, father, wife and children of a tenant whom wild horses could not keep from voting for him after a visit of that type. In that particular case, he was referring to his recent tour through Vitoria, Espirito Santo, where he is also strong.

The president must know much more in terms of the recruiting promoted by Paulo Maluf, incidentally, competently. And if he is really prepared to begin a new stage in the succession process, it will be to check or counterbalance the venture underway. On this point, despite the optimism of the minister of justice, things become involved. What will that action consist of?

Succession Needs a Coordinator

Despite the fact that he has the mandate to do so, the president does not like and does not know how to coordinate, properly speaking, if the verb is understood as acting the same way as the unusual candidate except in the opposite sense. Figueiredo has declared many times that he hates politics and does not know how to conduct it and, even worse, not disposed to waste time on it. The conclusion becomes clear: either he finds a competent agent or he will doom himself to defeat. It will not be of any use to go up the ramp of the executive headquarters once again filled only with good intentions; he will have to have a maneuvering mass and competent people to maneuver in order to go nose to nose, at the minimum, with the former Sao Paulo governor.

However well he may perform his work at the ministry, stitching and tying together the routine administration, Minister Leitaõ de Abreu does not appear to belong to the political branch. On innumerable occasions, he acted when he should not have and did not act when he should have, creating more problems than finding solutions. He did not oppose the total linkage of votes and attended the merger of the Popular Party (PP) with the PMDB, the cause of the greatest defeat of the PDS last November. He imposed Eliseu Resende in Minas Gerais when it was obvious that only a former PSD man would succeed in defeating Trancredo Neves. He did not ward off the candidates of Ney Braga and Eurico Rezende in Parana and Espirito Santo despite the fact that logic indicated revisions by Brasilia, even forced ones, to avert disaster. Later, after establishing broad understandings with the victorious opposition elements in congress and in the states, he lost precious time with the comedy of the agreement with the Brazilian Labor Party (PTB).

Not to mention the aborted attempt to create a dissident anti-Malufist slate in the Sao Paulo PDS, or the general confusion over odd ideas such as reelection, the establishment of a second-hand parliamentarism or even the illusion of the return of direct elections, all of it conceived by people who "parachuted" in or individuals outside of the uncoordinated coordination.

The result is that if Figueiredo really plans to retake control of the succession, confront Paulo Maluf and beat him at the polls, he will have to provide someone with political competence quickly. Some dream of Antonio Carlos Magalhaes becoming an organizer. Others, Ibrahim Abi-Ackel already in the Ministry of Justice. There must be alternatives other than those but they need to be adopted immediately. And since they will require, if not dismissals at least displacements in the current team, experience indicates that they will not be forthcoming. Just as he is not changing the structure in the economic area, the president is not going to change anything basic in the political area despite the good intentions to inaugurate a new succession phase.

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CSO: 3342/172

NAVY ORDERS GERMAN SUBMARINE; TO OPEN BIDS ON CORVETTES

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Aug 83 p 7

[Text] Rio--The navy director general of materiel, Admiral Raphael de Azevedo Branco said in an exclusive interview with O ESTADO yesterday, that financing has been arranged for the construction of a submarine for Brazil in the Federal Republic of Germany. "The Germans have confidence in Brazil, thus, by the end of the year the preliminary phase of the project should be completed so that construction may begin in 1984."

The admiral confirmed the navy project for the construction in the Rio de Janeiro Navyyard of a submarine having the same characteristics as the one that will be built in Germany, probably beginning in the second half of next year.

A team of engineers and technicians of the Rio Navyyard is going to be sent to Germany to absorb the construction techniques of the submarine IKL-1 400. It is one of the most modern conventional submarines that exist in the developed countries.

The admiral emphasized "the confidence of the Germans in the recuperative capacity of Brazil and the country's capacity to absorb the construction techniques of modern submarines, which in a short while is going to reduce even more the dependence on foreign naval technology."

According to Admiral Branco, the submarine project "will have to assure assistance to Brazil not only in technological terms but also in financial terms." Among the forces, negotiations with foreign groups for the purchase of equipment have for the most part become dependent on a compensation clause.

When the air force negotiates for the purchase of equipment, it seeks to negotiate for compensation by the import of Brazilian equipment. In some cases, the negotiations do not develop because of that requirement.

In the army, with greater emphasis since the Orlando Geisel administration, negotiations for the purchase of equipment, which has been reduced to the minimum in recent years, have to meet financial requirements and the transfer of technology. As in the Brazilian Navy and Air Force, the emphasis is also on the purchase of national equipment ranging from the arms sector to that of data-processing.

Competitive Bids

The navy is going to open a new competitive bid for the construction of two corvettes by private shipyards. The Verolme shipyard, which is in the process of becoming nationally controlled may participate. Its participation in the bidding will be conditioned on nationalization confirmed by means of documents.

Initially, the navy reequipping plan envisages the construction of four corvettes, two in the navyyard and two in private shipyards, with the object of helping the civilian companies maintain a high work load. This way, they may avoid a reduction of the pace of their activities and unemployment. It is compensation for the reduction of foreign orders to the private shipyards.

With the budgetary restrictions (some have already been set for the 1984 budget the proposal of which is going to be presented on the 31st in the national congress by President Figueiredo), the tendency is to intensify the nationalization of military materiel.

In the navy, all the funds to be released by its research institute (IPQM) will be conditioned on interests of nationalization. The IPQM will conduct only research of a military interest and the others pertaining to maritime resources will be conducted by another agency to be created for that purpose having Project Cabo Frio as a basis.

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CSO: 3342/172

MIDDLE CLASS COST OF LIVING RISES 130.1 PERCENT IN 1 YEAR

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 27 Aug 83 p 18

[Text] Sao Paulo--The cost of living of the middle class rose 130.1 percent in 1 year. That is the highest annual rate ever recorded by the Economists Association and the Sao Paulo Economists Union who prepare a monthly Middle Class Cost of Living Index (ICVM). In July, the index rose 9.94 percent. Although it was below that for June (11.72 percent), it was sufficient to establish a new record for the accrued annual rate.

According to the economists, the main reasons for the 130.1 percent inflation were the increases of food prices. In 1 year, food prices increased 154.8 percent. Removal of the subsidies for wheat appears as one of the causes for that increase since, among the products that increased the most in price are: wheat flour, 58 percent; bread, 44 percent; and macaroni, 37 percent. The other staple items increased as follows: meat and rice, 30 percent each; beans and eggs, 28 percent each; and sugar, 11 percent.

Housing and transportation were other items that underwent a great increase in July: 8.68 and 8.41 percent, respectively. Among the main items responsible for these increases are, in the case of housing, the new water rates (increase of 26.4 percent) and telephone (22 percent). In the case of transportation, the increase in the cost of maintenance, gasoline and diesel oil are the main causes.

Besides those factors, the economists association and union indicate as responsible for the 130.1 percent rate the increase of the costs of personal expenditures (7.6 percent), education (6.4 percent), health (4.45 percent) and clothing (2.95 percent).

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CSO: 3342/178

CACEX DIRECTOR FORECASTS SURPLUS OF \$8.5 BILLION IN 1984

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 23 Aug 83 p 32

[Text] The director of the Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department (CACEX), Carlos Viacava, yesterday predicted that next year Brazil will export \$24.5 billion, with a favorable balance of \$8.5 billion. During a discussion with businessmen in Sao Paulo at the First New Investment Opportunities Seminar promoted by the JORNAL DO BRASIL, CACEX and the BNDES, Viacava explained that next year imports will continue to be contained around \$16 billion, the same amount envisaged for this year.

In the opinion of the CACEX director, the stagnation of imports by itself does not mean that there will be an aggravation of the recession. With the stabilization of oil prices, the increase of domestic productions and programs for the replacement of imported energy, Viacava foresees a smaller share of oil purchases in the overall import schedule, which will mean opening space for an expansion of imports of other items necessary to the Brazilian economy.

Viacava foresees that from now until the end of this year, exports will range around \$1.9 to \$2.0 billion per month compared to imports of \$1.3 to \$1.4 billion, which will permit a monthly surplus above \$540 million, a sufficient level for the country to achieve the goal of \$6.3 billion in 1983.

The CACEX director attributed the performance of Brazilian exports in recent months to the reactivation of the U.S. economy, which has begun to grow at an annual rate of 9 percent and the maxi-devaluation of the cruzeiro by 30 percent in February of this year.

Viacava explained that for 1984 the foreign trade policy already has a strategic plan defined to achieve the target of \$8.5 billion. Besides more aggressive combating of international protectionism, the government plans to use its bargaining power in the purchase of oil. He pointed out that in 1982 Brazil had a deficit of \$7 billion in trade exchange with the oil producers and that now that the world oil market is clearly a seller's [as published] market, Brazil can condition oil imports on exports of manufactured goods.

The government also plans to increase bilateral negotiations to use bargaining power with countries from which it normally imports certain products. Viacava

cited among those countries, Argentina, Chile and East Germany. The basic point of that strategy, however, will be to seek a surplus with the industrialized countries that are Brazil's creditors.

'A Disaster'

Economist Roberto Macedo of the University of Sao Paulo said in Belo Horizonte yesterday that the Brazilian trade balance surplus is a "disaster because it is obtained through the intense restriction of imports and, consequently, of productive activity. It is a surplus generated at the cost of recession."

In his opinion, the reduction of Brazilian imports "is made at the cost of very great sacrifice and it is not any advantage for the country to accumulate a surplus at the present time."

Roberto Macedo "advocates an agreement with all of the creditors with a view to postponing payment of the debt for a period of 3 to 5 years."

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CSO: 3342/172

AGRICULTURAL LOSSES, ECONOMIC IMPACT DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Aug 83 p 7

[Text] Brasilia--The year 1983 was not good for Brazilian agriculture. After 3 years of super crops, 5 million tons of food were lost from the rains in the South and the drought in the Northeast, in addition to 1.2 million tons of cotton devastated by the "bicudo" insect plague. As a result, the weakened national economy will have to spend \$300 million on the purchase of rice, a course it did not count on, and will be deprived of the export of corn which was also affected and the exports of which last year amounted to 700,000 tons to the Soviet Union alone. Apprehensive, the producers are holding their stocks causing a spiraling increase of prices the main victim of which is the consumer.

According to data of the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) and the Production Financing Company (CFP), the losses of rice were 1.5 million tons, 700,000 tons of which were lost in the drought that struck the state of Maranhao. Agriculture Minister Amaury Stabile's forecasts of a production of 9.4 million tons were thwarted and Brazil will harvest 7.9 million tons. Without regulating stocks due to lack of foresight, the government has found itself compelled to authorize the entry of 400,000 tons of that product, quoted at \$100 a ton. The expectation is that 300,000 tons will enter the country until the end of the year.

The monthly average consumption of rice is 700,000 tons, which multiplied by 12 months amounts to 8.4 million tons. Therefore, there is a gap of 500,000 tons between demand and supply unfavorable to the government. In the recent release of minimum guarantee prices, the economic officials gave an increase of 195 percent to dry-grown rice and 193 percent to irrigated rice. The tendency is for the prices at the consumer level to surge even more, with the specter of a shortage of a staple food on the Brazilian table.

The bean situation is not as critical as that of rice only because it is a product without great demand on the international market and of which Brazil has a stock of 400,000 tons. In this case, the difficulty is with storage conditions. After being stocked for 6 months, it loses its properties and hardens. If it is not properly conditioned, it can get moldy and blighted. The average monthly consumption is 150,000 tons, which in 1 year collides with the production forecast for this harvest--1.8 million tons.

The loss of soybean was 1 million tons. However, that product, which is one of the principal products on the national import (as published) schedule, was compensated for by the reaction of international prices. Brazil is going to harvest 14.5 million tons of soybean, of which 4.5 million tons are earmarked for domestic consumption (1.5 million tons of oil and 3 million tons of meal). The remaining 10 million tons will be marketed abroad and the expectation is for revenues of \$2.8 billion.

In a few years, Brazil has become one of the principal exporters of chickens in the world and the main food of that fowl is corn-based feed. The average annual consumption forecast is 2 million tons for human consumption and 18 million tons for livestock feed and in industry. Thus the great concern about corn because last year Brazil exported 700,000 tons of corn to the Soviet Union. The producers watch the successive shipments in Brazilian ports with distress, fearing for domestic consumption. Nevertheless, the national economy will have to live with a loss of 1.5 million tons of corn, which puts production at 20 million tons, an amount equal to demand. Last week, at the closing of the First National Agroindustrial Symposium, Minister Amaury Stabile said that the government will have to get dollars somewhere to apply to the purchase of food and cited corn as one of the products that is at the inescapable limit.

Cotton is an indispensable product for the Northeastern economy. If there is a shortage, mass unemployment can occur in the region because the textile industries depend on that raw material. Of the small stock, 30 percent is earmarked for domestic consumption, to take care of the market, and the remaining 70 percent is diverted to the industries in the Northeast, which cannot stop. Instead of harvesting 2.9 million tons of the product, including arboreal (in the Northeast) and herbaceous (2.5 million tons in the Center-South), Brazil harvested 1.7 million tons, an amount quite close to the 1.5 million tons of demand.

The situation became so complicated in the case of cotton that the Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department (CACEX) banned exports of that product in June. The lack of foresight caused national producers to sell more than they had in stock on the basis of optimistic forecasts that did not materialize. Contributing to that was a "bicudo" plague, an insect that was unknown in Brazil and which appeared mysteriously in the producing zone of Sao Paulo. After some months of disorganized combat against the insect with constant disagreements between the federal government, state authorities and the scientific community, the plague was found in Campina Grande, Paraiba. At the present time, with the end of the harvest, the insect is in a phase of hibernation which makes it impossible to combat it.

Another measure adopted by the government to normalize domestic supply was the authorization to import first-quality cotton in plume. The quantity is open and the main national suppliers are Canada, Argentina and the United States.

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CSO: 3342/172

STEEL EXPORT QUOTAS SET BY U.S. TO BE PROTESTED IN GATT

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Sep 83 p 33

[Text] Brasilia--Brazil prefers to resort to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to demand its rights and compensation for loss of market, rather than accept the export quota of 4,000 tons of special steels to the United States established in July by President Ronald Reagan.

The information was given yesterday by a high-level aide of the Finance Ministry, who pointed out that the quota proposed by the United States is of no interest "nor is it worth the onus of our accepting a protectionist practice." The quota of 4,000 tons of exports per year practically excludes Brazil from the U.S. market, the aide emphasized.

"It is the moment to ask to what point the U.S. purpose of maximizing its export potential is compatible with the essential minimum level of continental cooperation," declared the Finance Ministry aide. Another high-level source in the diplomatic area commented that the White House special assistant for foreign trade, Ambassador William Brock, was clear in referring to Brazil: "We do not want another Japan in South America."

In the last 2 years, the United States has not only taken antidumping and antisubsidy actions against Brazilian products, including in third markets (where both compete) but has also established the system of quotas for the import of some products: first, against textile products, then sugar and, now, special steels. "It is a case of asking ourselves, which one is next," observed the Finance Ministry aide.

Quotas

The U.S. executive established import quotas and tariffs for various categories of special steels, prominent among them being stainless steel bars and tool steel exported by Brazil. According to the quota system, Brazil would only have the right to export 4,000 tons of special steels to the United States this year. And this hurts its exports because in the last 2 years, Brazil has exported 13,000 tons of that product to that country.

At a time of adjustment of the balance of payments mainly to settle accounts with the U.S. creditor banks, Brazil demands preferential treatment from

the United States. That is explained by the fact that the United States did not take into account the historical series of steel exports from Brazil, giving it a right to a larger quota. The finance minister even prepared a study showing the illegality of the protectionist measure adopted by the United States and planned to resort to that country's international trade court. Afterwards he believed he could negotiate the quotas. By the statements of Galveas' aide, it is clear that the negotiations are not going well.

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CSO: 3342/178

IBGE REPORTS UNEMPLOYMENT CONTINUED TO DECLINE IN JULY

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 12 Sep 83 p 32

[Text] Rio--The Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics Foundation (IBGE) reported yesterday that unemployment continues to decline in Brazil, revealing that in July the unemployment rate was 6.82 percent in the six main metropolitan areas of the country (Rio, Sao Paulo, Porto Alegre, Belo Horizonte, Recife and Salvador), compared to a rate of 6.90 percent recorded in June.

The results arrived at by the IBGE are contrary to the surveys conducted by the principal representative organizations of industry, such as the Federation of Industries of the State of Sao Paulo (FIESP) and the National Confederation of Industry (CNI), which recorded an increase of unemployment in the country. According to the IBGE calculations, the unemployment rate of 6.82 corresponds to 837,305 workers unemployed out of an economically active population of 12.2 million people in those areas. But those figures also refute Labor Minister Murillo Macedo, who only yesterday revealed the existence of 3 million unemployed in the country.

A rate of 6.82 percent corresponds to what the IBGE classifies as open unemployment, embracing the workers 15 years old or over who remain unemployed after having worked with a signed labor card, and also those who are seeking employment for the first time. In Sao Paulo, unemployment in July affected 7 percent of the economically active population of 5.2 million workers, corresponding to 366,632 people out of work. In June, the unemployment rate in Sao Paulo amounted to 7.05 percent, therefore, showing a declining tendency.

Of the metropolitan regions, the lowest unemployment rate occurred in Salvador, with 5.04 percent, corresponding to 31,444 persons out of work out of an active population of 623,900 workers. It is immediately followed by Rio de Janeiro, the unemployment rate of which is 6.16 percent, equivalent to 224,106 workers.

8711

CSO: 3342/178

ARMS SALE TO IRAN LEADS TO GUERREIRO VISIT TO IRAQ

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 Aug 83 p 38

[Text] Brasilia--The visit which Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro will make to Iraq in September is of a political nature. Through diplomatic channels, the Brazilian Government will give proof of its friendship to the Iraqi Government precisely at the time when Brazil has just concluded the sale of arms and ammunition in the amount of \$500 million to Iran, a country with which Iraq has been at war for 3 years.

The negotiations for the sale of the military material to Iran began on the 15th of this month when an Iranian mission arrived in Brasilia at the invitation of Planning Minister Delfim Netto. The coming of the Iranian mission was also the consequence of the visit which the director of the Bank of Brazil Foreign Trade Department (CACEX) Carlos Viacava, made to Iran at the end of July.

A government source in Brasilia who participated in the negotiations with the Iranian mission said that Brazil may sell \$200 million in ammunition and almost \$300 million in armament--tanks--to Iran.

The establishment of stronger relations with Iran is of interest to the Brazil because, besides producing oil, that country promises to be a big market for Brazilian products, greater even than Iraq. The problem is that in 1980, when the war started Iran and Iraq began, Brazil declared its neutrality and for that reason the sale of arms to one country may harm relations with the other.

8711

CSO: 3342/178

BRIEFS

CORN IMPORTS NECESSARY--In addition to importing wheat and rice at a cost of almost \$1 billion for only those two products, Brazil will have to buy 800,000 tons of corn abroad, which will cost the public treasury \$184 million. In terms of revenues, that will cancel the exports contracted with the Soviet Union for 700,000 tons of corn, which will yield \$161 million for the country. Two-thirds of that amount have already been shipped and the total shipment will be completed in March of next year. The Production Financing Company (CFP) reached the conclusion that there is a need to free the import of corn through the private companies because the failure of the current crop caused by the bad weather in the South was greater than expected. Out of an anticipated production of 21.5 million tons, Brazil harvested only 19 million tons, insufficient for domestic supply and carry-over stocks for the next crop. Annual industrial consumption is 18 million tons and human consumption, 2 million tons. By tomorrow, the economic authorities will determine the exact amount of corn to be imported. In the meantime, they are working with that forecast of 800,000 tons because the crop does not begin until March and the CFP is not in a position to supply the market during that period. [Excerpt] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 1 Sep 83 p 35]

8/11

CSO: 3342/178

BRIEFS

ITINERANT AMBASSADOR TO EUROPE--Former Costa Rican President Jose Figueres has been appointed itinerant ambassador to Europe. Opposition deputies were against the appointment, because Figueres openly favors the Sandinist revolution, thus contradicting in part Costa Rican Foreign Minister Fernando Volio's stance. [Summary] [PA012202 San Jose LA NACION INTERNACIONAL in Spanish 25-31 Aug 83 p 23]

WORKERS FEDERATION EXPULSIONS--The Costa Rican Federation of Democratic Workers, CCTD, in a paid advertisement, informs the public that charges made by former CCTD leaders Gilberto Brown [former CCTD president], Nunez, and Gonzalez [first names not given] have been rejected and that they have been expelled from the union. The CCTD accounting books are open to any investigation. The expelled leaders were acting as instruments of the American Institute for Free Labor Development, which has tried to control and manipulate the CCTD. Luis Armando Gutierrez Rodriguez is the new president, and Miguel Angel Calderon Sandi is the new secretary general. [Summary] [PA121850 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 27 Aug 83 p 7B]

CSO: 3248/1264

POLITICAL ROW ERUPTS OVER FATE OF NATIONAL STADIUM

Prime Minister's Position

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

A first class political row has broken out over the future of the National Stadium in the Canefield area with Prime Minister Eugenia Charles coming down firmly on the side of developing sports facilities in other parts of Dominica.

Miss Charles herself struck the first blow at her press conference on July 11, when she insisted that Dominica could not have afforded the stadium complex before Hurricane David, far more at the present time.

She reminded newsmen that she had criticized putting up the stadium when she was in opposition and had said so frankly and openly to the French Government adding:

"I have seen no retrenchment in their friendship as a result of that."

An article published in "The drum" newspaper last week by Ashworth P. Simon took the Prime Minister to task.

The article, the text of which is published on Page 14 of this issue, accuses the Freedom Party of a major contradiction in its development plan.

Why, asks Mr. Simon, is the Mahaut playing field considered of more importance than the national sports stadium?

And he goes on to answer his question: "The answer should be clear in the minds of all patriotic Dominicans. The development of the residential village of this individual (Mr. Phillip Nassief) and two ministers of government seems to mean much more to them than the interest of the nation as a whole."

Miss Charles made a slashing response to this and other arguments on the subject at the convention at Delices on Sunday.

Referring to industrial development, she said Dominicans saw the factories going up and would realise factories must be built if the country was going to get the business.

She added: "And you will hear some people talk about stadium. The stadium was built for international sport. They had expected that Mohammed Ali would come down here and box."

she had warned at the time that if they had an international playing ground they must have an international airport to service it and that was something Dominica did not have and one that was not being promised in the immediate future.

Miss Charles said: "We have not got the money to put the stadium back in order. At the moment we want jobs. The people want the jobs and we are using the stadium to create employment."

Then Miss Charles went on to reaffirm her interest in sport. "We are," she said, "trying to make sure that every little built up community has a playing field of some sort, and if certain members of the Press don't like the fact

that money is being spent on the Mahaut facility that's their business."

The Prime Minister emphasised: "We know that the people of Mahaut want the facility, and we know that because they are busy working themselves in their own type of field to make sure the work is done".

Later she added: "We cannot let the Press put in their papers a picture of the stadium taken before the hurricane and pretend that that is what the stadium is like now."

"No. We will let the press find out we know who they want, whose minds they can poison, give them all the answers, but we are going to stroll along for the people."

At her press conference

a fortnight ago, Miss Charles said much less money than had been spent on the stadium had been provided to improve Windsor Park and the Gardens.

"You would have had two good cricket grounds you could have used," she said. "You would have had a test match pitch in the Gardens and you also would have had some athletics and football at Windsor Park, and I think it would have been much better."

Further, she said, she believed every area deserved to have some playing field as well and the stadium could never really satisfy because Dominica had to spend a lot of money in the agreement they had made with the French.

DRUM Article

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 14

[Article by Ashworth P. Simon]

[Text]

There seems to be a major contradiction in the Freedom Party's development plan. This fact is mirrored in their policy related to sports.

It is clearly manifested by the attitude of one key adviser of the government, towards sports viz-a-viz, the government's attitude towards the same.

Mr. Phillip Nassief, one of the main supporters of the ruling party and a leading figure in the planning of the national economic development, has shown by his decision to contribute well over \$10,000 to the improvement of the Mahaut playing field that sporting facilities play a major part in the

meaningful development of any country and its people.

However, he, on the other hand, has supported if not advised the backward plan of government to turn the half-completed Canefield stadium into factory sheds. Isn't this an indication of a major contradiction?

In the interest of the nation one can ask, why is the Mahaut playing field considered of more importance than the national sports stadium? Why is Mr. Nassief and the government making such valuable contributions to sports in one village and at the same time depriving the nation and

some other villages of the same facilities?

The answer should be clear in the minds of all patriotic Dominicans. The development of the residential village of this individual and two ministers of government seems to mean more to them than the interest of the nation as a whole.

One can only guess that this move is to smooth up the Mahaut people, who at the last election voted Freedom heavily, but are now disenchanted with their performance, more so over the handling of the John Rose incident.

Their move is only aimed at regaining the confidence of the young voters for their own interest and at the same time blocking or forgetting the interest of the nation.

The Prime Minister was on the radio trying to justify the move by the government and gain support, her main point was that government was concerned with creating jobs by establishing industrial sheds.

Did she ever study the benefits of the stadium in the long term?

Let's make a few points here. Wouldn't the stadium create a steady job for some men, women and at the same time raise the enthusiasm of our sports men, women, and youth to making a greater effort to develop their full potential in whatever sport they are interested?

Would the stadium help to expose us to more international sports stan-

dards by being able to get high level visiting teams to our country? Couldn't the sports stadium in Canefield bring more income to the Sports Division and other sporting bodies, so that they would be less dependent on government and other private individuals, when it comes to participating in regional or international activities?

Wouldn't the stadium serve as a better venue for our independence shows, carnival etc.

because of the decrease in jumping over the walls or viewing from some vantage point outside?

Probably one can even say wouldn't the sports stadium help comfort some of the causes of the many cases of mental illnesses that are so rampant in our country and especially around the youth?

A sports stadium with a proper utilization plan can make a substantial contribution to the nation's economic recovery, and that's a point blank fact.

I think that government and Mr. Nassief need to face the truth and come to terms with time. I personally welcome Mr. Nassief's gesture towards the improvement to the Mahaut playing field since I'm from that village and will benefit.

But in the same light it's more important to complete the sports stadium, thus giving the nation an avenue where it can be in line able to compete for higher sporting activities.

"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." The same goes for the country: "All factories and no sport facilities make Dominica and her people a dull country".

If government is serious about development in the

public interest they should stop their plan for reforming the Canefield stadium and put whatever funds and technical assistance they have for turning the gardens into a test field into the completion of the stadium, which already has an international outlook in terms of size, security and location.

They should move away from placing all their emphasis on private control and introduce a firmer policy of both public and private development. They should stop making themselves a laughing stock, by so clearly exposing their weaknesses and contradictions.

Dominica is ours; let all of us be involved in its development, let us all be satisfied with the steps taken in our interest, every man, woman and youth should be given a chance to make what ever contribution he/she can, by providing him/her with the proper facilities relevant for his/her contribution.

The Canefield stadium is one such facility, it should be completed for the simple reason that in the long term it will project the contribution and most importantly the united image and interest of the entire Dominican population.

Analysis by 'Observer'

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Mr Simon's argument (see page 14) about the transformation of the stadium into industrial factory sheds is undoubtedly a legitimate one, but requires closer scrutiny.

It seems that Mr Simon's claim to fame is in discovering contradictions, and it appears that any and everything which befuddles his thought process is immediately categorized as such.

Unlike Mr Simon, a man of contradictions himself, those in government and at IDC are people of priorities and their priorities are to provide jobs and increase the country's productive capacity.

When our people have jobs and can truly afford to pay \$20 a head to watch an international sporting event, then we can worry about such luxuries as a stadium.

Until then, it is a priority that every village has access to proper playing fields. Hence the upgrading of the Mahaut facility and the need "to find a place we can make into a playing field for the people of Canefield" as Minister Charles assured at her last press conference. Any contradictions there, Mr Simon?

Mr Simon talks about the stadium as if it were some sort of panacea for the woes of Dominica. Has he ever seriously thought about the economics of such a stadium? The thousands of dollars required monthly to manage, run and maintain the stadium? That in fact the stadium may not even be able to support itself?

These problems are further complicated by there being no international airport to service such a facility.

Mr Simon ignores the fact that the agreement with the French Government stipulated that the Government of Dominica would have to turf and light the stadium, build a ring-road around the stadium and construct a new bridge alongside the 1899 bridge.

The cost of these plus the cost of repairing the stadium after the damage caused by Hurricane David is a heavy burden on the limited financial resources of the country. With that same money factory sheds can be constructed which will provide employment, transfer new skills and generate exports.

Also left out by Mr Simon is the significance of the Canefield Airport. It will be necessary for the future safety and viability of the airstrip to extend the runway by at least another 500 feet. This extension will run through the eastern-half of the stadium while the factory sheds occupy the western-half.

It is interesting to note that the same French Government which financed the stadium is now willing to finance the strip's extension. Surely, the future of Canefield is far more important to Dominica than the stadium.

CSO: 3298/885

FIRED MINISTER DYER QUILTS RULING FREEDOM PARTY

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 21 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

Roseau Dominica
Saturday (CANA) — EX-
MINISTER OF Com-
munications and Works
Henry Dyer has said he
had resigned from the
ruling Dominica
Freedom Party of Prime
Minister Eugenia Charles
accusing it of not
upholding "the golden
maxim of democracy"
that the people's wishes
must prevail.

Speaking during a 50-
minute Press conference
here, Dyer discounted
allegations by Prime
Minister Charles in her
dismissal letter to him
this month.

Dyer said he had
decided to resign from the
ruling party "because of
the constant unfounded
allegations by some of the
higher officials of the
party of my disloyalty
and the party's failure to
uphold the golden maxim
of democracy, that is that

the wishes of the people
must prevail."

Dyer said that he in-
tended remaining in
Parliament as "an in-
dependent member"
adding: "I am deter-
mined to assist my
country to the best of my
ability." The ex-
Minister, who had shied
away from reporters
since his August '2
dismissal, said that he
had done so because he
did not want to respond to
anything with emotion.

In her letter, Prime
Minister Charles said that
Dyer had failed to hold
the portfolios in his
command" and it is
obvious that you have not
been able to perform."
She also accused him of
not carrying out party
policies or helping in the
formation of policies and
that he had "failed to play
his part as a member of a
team."

CSO: 3298/917

DYER'S OUSTER FROM CABINET BRINGS POLITICAL REVERBERATIONS

Columnist's View

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 6 Aug 83 p 4

[Points to Ponder column by Pragmatist]

[Text]

Henry Dyer didn't realize it then, but he played right into the hands of the opposition forces when he agreed to be interviewed by the "DRUM" newspaper, ostensibly to defend himself against an earlier criticism which had appeared in the CHRONICLE.

Rule No. 1 in any public relations course is when you are critized in one sector of the media, you must respond in the same medium. Then, if necessary, you may consider increasing and spreading your defence artillery.

The Minister of Communications and Works remarks in what is popularly regarded as an opposition newspaper (actually the only strong link is with O. J. Seraphin) was quickly picked up by the more activist in the opposition ranks, notably DLM, as clear indication that all was not well within the Freedom Government. It was even postulated that the letter in the CHRONICLE critical of some of the Minister's actions could only have appeared because the party hierarchy so wanted.

More, that Dyer was being denied access to the alleged Freedom controlled paper and thus had to seek an outlet for his own explanation in the "DRUM". All of a sudden, Henry Dyer, has been on the defensive.

And it was all so unnecessary. Had he handled the matter differently, it would not have become the hot political and speculative issue that it developed into. A short letter by Dyer, giving the facts about the construction and funding of two public conveniences in the Pottersville and Goodwill areas, would have likely ended further discussion.

In fairness to Dyer, talking with any member of the press is well within the democratic tradition of the Freedom Party and its government. It is an open government. There are presumably no party directives on which of the press Ministers can talk to or when. But each Minister would be expected to use his discretion and political judgement. Dyer's reaction to the simple letter in the press may not have shown the best of either.

His detractors quickly pounced on it to make an "issue". The DLM Alliance had first tried to float trouble between Pat Stevens and the Freedom Party. That soon proved to have no base. So the Dyer matter came along and the DLM grabbed it. Talk of an imminent reshuffling of the Cabinet emerged and was fanned on. Imminent or not, P.M. Charles had to make it perfectly clear at the Convention that she reserved the right to shuffle her cabinet in

the interest of greater efficiency.

The interesting feature of this latest controversy is that,

before now, any talk of a cabinet reshuffle focussed, not on Henry Dyer, but on Hekeith Alexander who currently heads the admittedly difficult Ministry of Agriculture

Agriculture remains a mess, so that there is deserved speculation that it is due for new management at the very top. The question is who. If one is looking for competent administrative ability — and good administration of its many diverse operations is

one of the key lacks in agriculture — then the name of the current Minister for Education and Health would certainly emerge. Unfortunately,

Maynard's background in Agriculture is practically nil, and traditionally, people and Prime Ministers seem to feel more comfortable having someone with at least some, even if long past, association, with "the land". Moreover, Maynard's abilities may be put to even greater advantage if he were placed in something like a new Ministry of Planning and Economic Development.

But back to poor Dyer. All that talk about him has also coincided with all the talk about our roads. They are in

an absolutely atrocious condition. I make bold to say that I have never seen them as bad, both in town and in the country, in all my 44½ years. That if nothing else does not reflect too well on Mr. Dyer. I have credited the Freedom Government in the past for excellent work in obtaining long term funds for serious and long lasting road reconstruction. Their short term programme, however, leaves a lot to be desired. Vehicle drivers cannot be expected to wait indefinitely on the long term programme whose start up times keep getting put off.

If Dominicans had to vote on Mr. Dyer's future on the basis of our roads, that Cabinet reshuffle would come sooner rather than later.

Analysis of Cabinet Workings

Reuben THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 4

[Point] to Ponder column by Pragmatist]

[Text]

EVERY Cabinet in the world has its heavyweights and its lightweights. Margaret Thatcher had what the British press termed the "wets", those wavering members of her government who had mixed feelings about her firm and undeviating economic policies. She fired three in early 1982 and removed the last remaining, her then Foreign Minister Francis Pym, immediately after her resounding electoral victory in June.

P M Charles has her Big 3. Apart from herself, they include the Minister of Education and Health, Charles Maynard, and the Minister for Home Affairs, Brian Aileyn. It is being suggested in many quarters that it is those three who are responsible for most of the policies of the Government.

My reaction: so what? It is those three who are the most capable, judging from the performance record in their Ministries. It is not their fault that the Attorney-General to date has not distinguished himself with any particular bit of legal or legislative brilliance; that the Ministry of Agriculture has failed to rise up from the depths of incompetence and a general lack of direction that have long bedevilled it; that Henry Dyer decided to withdraw from the team work and co-ordination

expected within any serious and systematic government. If much of the innovation and the dedication (should we add, and the honesty) of the present Cabinet comes mostly from Eugenia, Maynard and Aileyn, why should they not be the most influential?

Let me quickly add that I would normally have included Henry Dyer among the "reasonably competent" group and therefore do not necessarily share some of the P.M.'s intimations in her letter of dismissal.

However, I do accept the need for her action on the grounds of not working as a team and indeed, appearing to be undermining the policies determined by the party and its ministerial group. And, incidentally, my article last

week was written before the sacking. I have also not cared too much for Dyer's recent tendency to pronounce on his special concern for "the small man" and the need for national unity, almost implying that these are not quite current party policy.

The issue of "the small man" also suggests the main reason why Maynard and Alleyne continue to be the brunt of opposition criticism. Both are regularly lambasted as "bourgeois" and representing the "gros bourg" of the Freedom Party. It is not new in Opposition politics, but the irony is that the backgrounds of the two named show just the opposite.

Charles Maynard's beginnings are about the humblest of the whole lot in Cabinet (including Dyer himself) - and furthermore he has never tried to hide that fact but, quite the contrary, has referred to it from time to time. But Maynard has had a successful run in life in both his educational qualifications and in his work record. He has moved up the ranks and it is all to his credit. It remains ridiculous and a continuing threat to the sustained upliftment of the society as a whole that persons who are successful in

their endeavours become objects of chastisement precisely because of their success.

It is also ironical that criticism of Maynard so often comes from the Leftists, because for a long time he was himself seemingly very partial

to the socialist ideology. In fact, he probably would still describe himself as a socialist, in the mold of Phillip Potter, and would insist that his principles and practices express his continuing belief in raising all, especially the lowest and the least fortunate, to higher levels in the quality of life. But he is also honest and a realist, and has long had to part company with our local leftists.

He has also, to judge from his pronouncements in the House, began to accept the paradoxical fact that the best way of achieving the Socialist "greatest good for the greatest number" is by fostering the creativity and personal achievement - and the discipline, efficiency and pragmatism - that only really comes with the free enterprise system.

Brian Alleyne, by contrast,

comes from a distinguished family line. Again, it is unfortunate that a man is criticized because of what he is born into. (aha! it works both ways!)

But the irony again is, long before he joined the Freedom Party, Alleyne had developed a not inconsiderable reputation as the defender of the downtrodden, the small man, the dread, the victims and ill-fits of the status quo. Many in authority (not only political authority) did not quite care for the activities of this young lawyer who was always pushing human rights causes. Alleyne defended in court many a young person knowing that chances of payment were nil. In fact, he was at the forefront at getting Legal Aid started.

Yes, it is indeed strange that those two are the objects of opposition vile talk. Strange but not surprising. After all, when a man cannot be faulted for performance, his political opponents will tackle his character. When there is nothing there to challenge, they will - heaven help them - attack his background.

Speculation on Charles' Motive

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 pp 1, 19

[Text]

"THE source from which I earned my income was suddenly taken away from me without any notice, so now I am trying to reorganize myself, and that is my priority right now".

So said ex-minister Henry Dyer after several attempts to interest him in an interview with the NEW CHRONICLE.

Mr. Dyer has remained tight-lipped, reiterating: "I shall make a statement at the appropriate time".

Prime Minister Eugenia Charles, too, (with the exception of her letter and press conference) has been reluctant to say anything about the "real story" behind the termination of Mr. Dyer's appointment as Minister of Communications and Works.

In the letter to Mr. Dyer which informed him of his dismissal, Miss Charles said:

"I have been disturbed at your silence", with reference to his lack of participation at Cabinet meetings.

The public was wondering whether the issue was "hotter" than it appeared, and were both Miss Charles and Mr. Dyer exercising due caution to minimize potential repercussions? There is a lot of rumour and speculation as a result of this silence.

The NEW CHRONICLE has only been able to work with such speculation and rumour, and certain ambiguous statements made by Prime Minister Eugenia Charles in her letter of dismissal and at her Convention speech.

There is widespread belief that Mr. Dyer was dismissed because he was pushing for the prosecution of a certain government employee who was allegedly involved in manipulating the time-keeping records on a U.S. Aid road-patching programme.

It was believed that this employee, who is a strong Freedom Party supporter, was allowed to leave the country before the police could get to him.

When contacted by the NEW CHRONICLE yesterday, Prime Minister Charles said that the employee had come to see her, but she told him that "we got in on a no-corruption ticket, and the matter is for the police to handle and I cannot interfere."

When asked why Prosecution was not initiated against him, Miss Charles said that such action would have to be taken "by the Ministry which employed him".

The NEW CHRONICLE contacted the Commissioner of Police who informed us that, to his knowledge, "no report was made to the police by the Ministry on the matter."

One explanation given for this was that the U.S. Aid consultant supervising the project, was not in favour of carrying out the prosecution

since the employee had by then resigned his job. The NEW CHRONICLE has also learnt that he subsequently paid back the funds.

At the recent Freedom Party Convention, Prime Minister Charles said in her address "when we are given money for roads we must make sure that it is spent on roads and nothing else."

When the NEW CHRONICLE followed this up and asked Prime Minister Charles what exactly she meant, she said she believed that "each dollar of aid was not going far enough".

The public was speculating whether this was what she had in mind when she wrote in her letter "You have failed to demand and to obtain efficiency from the departments and the Statutory organizations which fall within your portfolio and as a result the public has been inadequately served"?

And what did she mean by "You have failed to take hold of the portfolio in your care and it is obvious that you have not been able to inform, evaluate for Cabinet and advise Cabinet on the road projects and contracts...."?

Sources close to Cabinet suggest that Mr. Dyer did not regularly and comprehensively inform Cabinet of the negotiations going on concerning the road projects.

One such example is that a contract had been drawn up with World Bank consultants with regards to the section being financed by that organization under the road programme.

The contract apparently provided a figure of \$3 Million in consultancy fees: the World Bank project totalling \$5 million dollars. In other words, only \$2 Million would actually be spent on building roads while consultants would have been paid \$3 Million for their advice and preparatory work.

On hearing this, Miss Charles became annoyed and tore up the contract, proceeding to phone the World Bank to inform them that she was no longer interested in the project since most of the money was to go into consultancy fees.

It is said that the World Bank requested her not to cancel the project and advised that the contract be renegotiated.

This was done and the new contract has brought down the consultancy fees from \$3 Million to \$1.2 Million, less than half.

The NEW CHRONICLE has attempted to have Mr. Dyer comment on the issue, but he is so far unwilling.

Charles' Press Conference Remarks

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 84 p 3

[Text]

"PRIME MINISTER
Charles, Mr. Dyer was regarded as very popular politically, what do you think will be the likely political repercussions on his dismissal?"

This was one of the questions asked Miss Charles at the press conference last Friday.

The Prime Minister: "I think there are some people who like Mr. Dyer and who don't like the decision taken. It was not a decision taken lightly and I think many of his supporters are not happy about it. After all, there have been terminations of this sort in the past. There were three of them terminated at one time in 1970. You had one terminated a few months after independence and then in the interim government, I can't remember how many were terminated or who terminated themselves; there were several people moving out the interim government."

Miss Charles then enumerated a number of projects which government had achieved. This was inspired by a question which suggested that other people might take the credit for work which Mr. Dyer had accomplished.

She said that was the questioner's interpretation of the situation. But she thought that it was obvious that Mr. Dyer, in spite of his nice radio comments in a daily, believed in the same things.

She went on: "When he talks of looking after the schools, let us look at the projects we have carried out. It is obvious that it's anybody else but the poor people who have benefitted."

"Let us look at health to make sure that health is paid for through Social Security."

"Let us look at the Income Tax structure to see that it is to help the low-income bracket people."

"Let us look at the feeder roads. The large estate owners have not got anything for feeder roads because it is the small people who got these feeder roads. There is a lot more to be done, but we have begun to make inroads in the feeder road problem."

"Let us look at the clinics. Have any of you looked at the hospital, and seen that the hospital is no longer crowded because of clinics in nearly every district and the poor people will no longer have to bear the expenses of having to travel long distances to the hospital."

"Let us look at the dental care that has been given. Who is benefitting? Is it not the poor people?"

"Let us look at the out districts where we have arranged for ambulances and fire services."

"All of these are for those to benefit who are not as well off, as others in the community."

"So this shows that he (Mr. Dyer) is following the thinking of the Freedom Party to look after the people who can't look after themselves."

More From Press Conference

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 14

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Eugene Roseau emphatically denied at a press conference at Government Headquarters, Roseau, last Friday that Mr. Henry Dyer was sacked as Minister of Communications and Works, primarily because of his "political views more than for his incompetence".

Miss Charles said that there was no talk of incompetence, nor was there talk of difference of political views.

In fact, she said, the statement made by Mr. Dyer was that he accepted the Freedom point of view — that you must stand for justice and that you must look after the poor and weak. So that he was endorsing the Freedom policy. It was obvious, therefore, that there were no political differences.

The reason was that there was not the full input by the Minister in his position in the Cabinet to "make the country go".

The Prime Minister later accused CANA of being the first to mention "incompetence". She said CANA has interpreted the letter the way they wanted to.

"In fact", she said, "I would not have released the letter at all. But being worried that CANA misinterpreted parts of the letter I published the whole letter so that you could make up your minds."

The CANA representative interrupted to point out to the Prime Minister that the letter had said, in a letter sent to Mr. Dyer, Miss Charles had pointed out that the former Minister had been unable to carry out the functions of his Ministry and that in June this year "did not accept my invitation to resign from your office".

The two-page letter, a copy of which was shown to newsmen by Mr. Dyer, charged that he (Mr. Dyer) had failed to take hold of the portfolio in your care, and it is obvious that you have not been able to perform".

Miss Charles admitted this, but stated that she did not say that he (Mr. Dyer) was incompetent. It did not mean that she was dissatisfied with his inefficiency; he might have been an efficient man, but she was dissatisfied with his putting his talents to the policy and decisions planned by government.

She further explained, you cannot, whilst you are in Cabinet, accuse a Minister after you make the decisions. In fact, you cannot tell the Speaker that the Speaker is wrong until you bring your resolution to the House to show where the Speaker is wrong.

"If the Speaker says something", she added, "yes, I accept. You may not like it, yet you accept even though you know it's wrong; but you must bring a motion on that for you to criticise."

"The same thing applies whilst you are in Cabinet; there is unity. While a decision is made, it makes a part of yours (decision) so you have to accept it. When you decide to part company, then you speak the reason why."

Miss Charles later said that there was no incompetence in the other Ministries and reiterated that in nowhere in her letter did she state there was incompetence. There was no last straw, she said; there was an accumulation of things that happened. You talk about it, you try to correct it. At times it has not been corrected. I had a long talk in June and personally the way I would have liked was a resignation, but the system (not the one you operate in; but the one in which I operate) you resign. Obviously, there was dissatisfaction on Mr. Dyer's part too.

The Prime Minister also denied that it took three years to realise that fact. She said: "things happen and they grow and you take every step you can to change them and when it is obvious that it is not going to change then you decide that you must look for

somebody to help you more than you are getting now."

In response to a question that if one were to follow that up, would it be right to assume that the fact that she took over the Ministry of Tourism from Mr. Dyer was showing indirectly to the population that you were not satisfied with the performance of Mr. Dyer, Miss Charles replied:

"As regards tourism and without distribution from a different front to what has been done, that is why we moved him. I personally believe that tourism is best done by a Committee or corporation to plan it, to get approval, to plan a kind of strategy, more than from the governmental angle."

The Prime Minister was then confronted with this question:

"Based on what you said with regard to the fact that he was not giving a sufficient amount of input as far as the Cabinet decisions were concerned; yet you find that in a lot of instances, Mr. Dyer had been made Acting Prime Minister, (The Prime Minister; that's right), I see a lot of contradictions; how can a man be acting Prime Minister when he has not been making any input in Cabinet?"

Miss Charles: "No, that was, in fact, a method to push him, to make him feel the burden; you make the decisions and then you can understand what sort of assistance you require because you can't sit alone in there, you know; you got to have assistance. You got to have people explaining to you and backing you and criticising you is very important."

The Prime Minister was then asked was it not a fact that she had praised the Minister of Works for his "good activities" and performance?

"Naturally", she replied. "The work is going on. Do I have to tell the public that he is not doing it (his job) until I make a decision?"

Charles on CHRONICLE Role

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 14

[Text]

With regard to a letter published in the press where a Cabinet source was mentioned Miss Eugénie Charles, Prime Minister said at her press conference last Friday that she was sure it was by somebody who wanted to cause trouble in the Cabinet and therefore knowing that Mr. Dyer was sensitive, wrote this knowing that he would be angry about it.

"That has always been my feeling," she said, "because a person who knew Cabinet will know that this would not have to come before it, and therefore Cabinet would know nothing about it. But I believe it was somebody who asked me the question and I said I knew nothing about it. The fact is, it was not a matter for Cabinet - so the person was not knowledgeable of Cabinet. He could have written that letter.

Being told that it was the belief by a colleague of one of the media representatives that that letter should never have appeared in the CHRONICLE, and taking into consideration the CHRONICLE'S stance, re development Miss Charles said that pragmatist had criticised her. There had been letters in the CHRONICLE about her on two or three occasions, she did nothing about it. It (the NEW CHRONICLE) was not a Freedom paper she was not a lawyer, but the letter as she saw it, was not libellous.

CSO: 3298/885

UNION DISPUTES REPORT ON DEATH PENALTY SOLIDARITY CABLES

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 2

[Text] The National Workers' Union has condemned a news item broadcast over DBS radio this week which said that "three cables demanding the liberation of six condemned men have been received by the government."

The item came from a release last week by the Government Information Service. It said that the cables were all from trade unions and other political interests in Guadeloupe. The release added: "They call for the immediate liberation of the condemned in solidarity with the National Workers' Union."

The release noted that during the trial of seven men for the murder of Police Constable Mathias Alexander, there was evidence of a Guadeloupe connection in the armed attack in 1981 on police headquarters in which nine other policemen, including Police Chief O.N. Phillip were injured. One of the men accused was acquitted.

NWU President Rawlins Jemmott, who had been detained in connection with the incident, later was freed for lack of evidence against him.

The GIS release noted that members of the Confederation Generale du Travail de la Guadeloupe (CGTG) were in Dominica to attend a meeting called by the NWU to discuss the fate of the condemned men. It added that CGTG was one of the six organisations demanding the immediate liberation of the six condemned men.

Mr Jemmott told a news conference on Wednesday that the NWU categorically disassociated itself from the section of the news item which read: "They call for the immediate liberation of the condemned men in solidarity with the National Workers Union."

He said the only cable received by his union in solidarity was from the Action group of Ireland which opposed the death penalty and asked for humane treatment of the condemned men.

Mr Jemmott said it was a lie that the Guadeloupeans had come here to attend a meeting called by the NWU to discuss the condemned men.

The union admitted that three members of that group were in Dominica in July. But the issue of the condemned men had not formed part of the discussions. That came up because of the police attitude to Guadeloupeans, he declared.

The NWU reiterated its continued stand for justice in Dominica and said it will not give up. The union wanted to get the message clear, said Mr Jemmott.

CSO: 3298/886

5,000 ATTEND 15TH ANNUAL FREEDOM PARTY CONVENTION

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 12

[Text]

The consensus at Delices last Sunday: A triumphant convention.

From all over the Commonwealth, some, 5,000 citizens poured into the south-eastern village for the 15th annual convention of the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP).

They went to do serious party business. And they also went to celebrate three years of government by a party that had restored stability to a country which had been wracked by a decade of political wrangling at government level.

As one party supporter put it: "If the Opposition were here to see this display of confidence in the DFP they would give up all hope of winning the next election, Alliance or no Alliance."

The party faithful braved the threat of rainy weather and the difficult road conditions to hear the government ministers and, most of all, Prime Minister Eugenia

Charles tell of the progress achieved over the last year.

For the visitors from the north and the west, the trip was a revelation. They motored over miles of paved roads and saw the preparations being made to complete the job on the unpaved sections.

The convention took on the appearance of a picnic for hundreds who paid little attention to the political part of the proceedings, but set out to enjoy themselves to the fullest.

The convention set an example of woman power as portrayed by Miss Charles's dominance of the delegates-packed hall.

Inside the hall, the enthusiasm rose to fever-pitch during the feature speech delivered by Dr. Kennedy Simmonds, the visiting Premier of St. Kitts-Nevis.

It cooled a bit when the ministers gave an account of their

stewardship during five-minute addresses, but rose again when Miss Charles went to the microphone to speak to the party faithful.

When she finished her speech, she received a standing ovation that went on for at least three minutes.

Later, the ovation was repeated when she was presented with a shield as a memento of her leadership of the party by Mr. R.J. Delauney who capped presentation with a kiss on the Prime Minister's cheek.

The convention setting bore testimony to the national leadership of Miss Charles and the successes of the government.

"Dominica is fortunate" said one of the delegates, "to have Miss Charles at the helm of affairs at this trying period in the history of the State. It is clear that progress is being made," he added.

CHARLES DISCUSSES MEDIA, LIBYAN SCHOLARSHIPS, BOMB SCARE

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 16

[Text]

MISS EUGENIA CHARLES, the Prime Minister, sees the necessity of the Press for sensationalism so that the people "will satisfy a need."

But what she would like to see is the Press saying something of the things we are doing for the development of Dominica rather than saying the things other countries are doing.

She said this at her press conference last Friday in answer to a question whether, in the light of her criticisms of the press, was there anything in the press useful or beneficial?

She replied: "Yes, you inform people, sometimes with wrong information. The people have controversial matters to talk about; but I don't want interpretations that are wrong, like incompetence; interpretations like solo or attitudes, or interpretations that everything stems from the IMF when it doesn't. Those things I expect to be better sorted out."

"The press is not going to sit there and say things that are not controversial, they will not sell, they will not get the news. It is part of journalistic education that you must make these things sensational so that people will satisfy a need; isn't that right?"

She said what she will like to see is the press saying something of the things we are doing for the development of Dominica, rather than saying the things other countries are doing. Write an article on the health field, write an article on the educational field. You (not the NEW CHRONICLE) wrote an article about the summer school which was completely wrong. I think you should now write one saying

"we have seen the summer school in action and it is going well". I think you owe it to yourself to do that.

Earlier, she had said:

"After all there is freedom of the press and the newspaper has the right to express itself, but this has nothing to do with the IMF why the Water Authority and the Port were not operating. In the past they have been much worse than they are today and we have taken certain decisions about it."

If these decisions are not carried out as properly as we would like them carried out, I can't say it is incompetence. This has not been done and as a result, we have not got the results we expected. But I cannot say this until we come to the parting of the ways. How would you like a Prime Minister to stand up and accuse a Minister while he is a Minister to the public? you can't expect me to do that."

PM To Address World Bank

PRIME MINISTER Eugenia Charles is to address the World Bank in September, around the 20th. She will be back in Dominica on October 3.

She revealed this at the end of her press conference last Friday.

And before that she will be attending the Ministers of Finance meeting in the Commonwealth in Trinidad.

Disillusioned

With regard to the scholarship issue, i.e. the offer of scholarships by Libya, Miss Eugenia Charles, the Prime Minister, told newsmen last Friday that each country had the right to make the decision as to what scholarships it accepts. The decision to accept does not mean disloyalty to the country because they have the freedom to accept.

Many of the Dominicans,

she said, who returned from Libya came back very disillusioned.

As far as the Cuban situation was concerned, Dominica had refused to accept the scholarship offer because she had got information that outside students must subject themselves to learn Marxism and Leninism and that was not the philosophy of Dominica.

No Worry at All

Commenting on the bomb found in the Government Printery, as to whether it worried her to any extent, Miss Charles said:

"No, every time we sit in the House of Assembly, we get a phone call that there is a bomb in the House of Assembly. So we are getting accustomed to it. It was not the first time that a bomb was found in that area. It did not explode either. We have to live expecting this sort of thing; but you can't live on the end of your nerves, you have to take it in your stride because of the job you are doing.

"If I had to worry every time there was a thing like that, I will live on nerves and I am not prepared to live on nerves. I have too much to do.

[Editor's Note: These comments refer to a report carried in THE NEW CHRONICLE of 6 August 1983, page 1, which read in its entirety as follows:]

Bomb Found in Printery

"Some explosive substance", wrapped and packaged with tape and connected to a live detonator with a length of fuse, was discovered on a shelf in a store-room at the Government Printery on High Street, about 11.30 a.m. last Tuesday.

The fuse appeared to have been lit, but became extinguished before it reached the detonator.

The package was found on a shelf behind some papers by an employee who was at the time doing a job of cleaning up the room.

According to a spokesman at the Government Printery, it could not be ascertained when this live bomb was planted.

The Police are continuing their investigations in the matter.

CSO: 3298/885

ST LUCIA INCIDENT RECALLS DOMINICANS' VISIT TO LIBYA

Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 6 Aug 83 p 1

[Excerpts] When 14 St Lucians turned up at Vigie Airport in St Lucia to board an Air St Lucia plane to Martinique, police officers seized their passports. They were on the first leg of their trip to Tripoli, Libya.

This follows reports that some \$1 million Libyan money was recently distributed among the so-called "progressive" parties in the Eastern Caribbean.

With accusations that the group was going to Libya to receive military training and tuition in the arts of terrorism, the PLP responded in a manner familiar and reminiscent of the way the DLM Alliance reacted when certain young Dominicans were also recruited to go to Libya some eight months ago.

"They're only students" was the familiar cry. The PLP and OJMS claiming the "students" were offered scholarships and asserting in typical brigadistic fashion: "we will accept scholarships from where ever they come."

St. Lucian police revealed, however, that some of the "Students" were terrorists while others had criminal records.

The exposure of the Libyan connection with St. Lucia comes only weeks after certain Dominicans have returned to the state after spending up to 6 months there.

It is not yet known whether more Dominicans were being recruited to go to Libya along with the St. Lucian group.

Whether more Dominicans are being recruited or not, it appears that Gaddafi is not satisfied with his imperialist escapades in Africa where he was directly responsible for the slaughter of thousands of Ugandans by openly supporting Idi Amin; where he is fermenting civil war in Chad by using the old colonialist tactic of manipulating tribal rivalry; and where he very nearly caused the break-up of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

It seems he is now turning his attention to those poor islands in the Caribbean Sea which are inhabited by the descendants of African slaves.

A high official who prefers to remain anonymous told the NEW CHRONICLE:

"For those of us who do not believe that a handful of youngsters going away to Libya pose a threat to our values and systems of government, it is important to realize that it only takes a handful of dedicated souls to oust any government overnight with proper planning as happened in nearby Suriname and Grenada."

COEXPORT URGES MEASURES TO COMPLEMENT REAGAN PLAN

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 23 Aug 83 p 17

[Text] COEXPORT has fulfilled its objectives over the 10 years of its existence, Eng Roberto Abrego, president of the Committee of Exporters of El Salvador, has declared in a speech during presentation of the 1982 prize to the best exporter.

Following was the message of Engineer Abrego:

"COEXPORT was created for the purpose of promoting national production of non-traditional goods for the world market. This fulfills other private sector objectives, such as creation and maintenance of job opportunities and development, establishment and expansion of export industries.

"The committee, through its boards of directors made up of management groups with a vision toward the future, has fulfilled its objectives over these 10 years of operation, in spite of the adversities suffered by the management sector.

"In this regard, convinced that we must continue the struggle, overcoming those adversities as we have done to date for the benefit of the country, COEXPORT believes that it will have a more relevant role in the country's economic life this year and in the years to come, for it supports President Reagan's initiative of his Caribbean Basin economic program, since this committee, given its aims and objectives, represents the suitable organization to coordinate the efforts of said program.

"COEXPORT believes that national complementary measures, such as the exports development law and investments promotion law, should be adopted to fulfill the aforementioned at the institutional level. Such measures should be based on the free enterprise principle and on their practical application, free of misunderstandings and ambiguities. They also should be of a scope that overcomes the overseeing tendency and excessive bureaucratic control and, above all, eliminates the possibility of unfair government competition when the latter assumes direct marketing of products that are handled efficiently by the private sector.

"It is likewise necessary to establish fiscal and financial incentives that permit having a structure of adequate costs so as to go to market on a competitive basis and, for this same purpose, provide credit facilities and preferential interest rate for pre-export and export.

"Concerning investments specifically, we can say that one can hardly speak of short-term promotion of investments, given not only our deteriorated image abroad but also the absence of a suitable climate for the national and foreign investor; to which should be added the economic and social uncertainty generated by the new constitutional order of the republic. However, just as CO-EXPORT has explained at national forums, the incorporation of systems in new trade schemes with industrialized countries can be expected in the short term which, to some extent, permit utilization of idle installed capacity to promote co-investments, or simple trade relations, in which foreigners and nationals provide labor and/or raw materials, technology and markets.

"As we have said previously, we want to take advantage, institutionally for the benefit of the country, of the Caribbean Basin Initiative. That is our future, and government agencies involved should agree with this effort, supporting and promoting the creative capacity of management.

"An example of the latter is the ingenuity of one of our associates, Phillip Hand, general manager of Bon Appetit. He has earned the 1982 COEXPORT Prize for his contribution to this country by directly or indirectly generating jobs, earning foreign exchange, opening new markets, developing new products, using national raw materials, meeting his financial obligations and, particularly, by demonstrating his allegiance to the principle of free individual initiative, which keeps our deal "El Salvador" active."

9925

CSO: 3248/1242

ANEP'S 1983-84 AGENDA BACKS REAGAN PLAN

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Aug 83 pp 5, 22

[Text] The new National Association of Private Enterprise (ANEP) executive committee has announced its 1983-84 work plan.

Most of the committee's members were reelected, with the exception of the assistant treasurer's post which went to Dr Rafael Meza Delgado, at a 23 August board of directors meeting.

The committee is made up as follows:

President, Eng Conrado Lopez Andreu; first vice-president, Miguel Angel Salaverria; second vice-president, Eng Eduardo Funes Hartmann; secretary, Jose Infanzozzi; assistant secretary, Eng Roberto Aguilar Papini; treasurer, Rufino Garay H.; assistant treasurer, Dr Rafael Meza Delgado; and executive director, Juan Vicente Maldonado.

The work plan is:

- (1) To continue its efforts to carry out short-term actions that contribute to the country's economic recovery; and to continue, even at the cost of sacrifices, to maintain sources of employment open so that the population can overcome the current crisis;
- (2) To expand its institutional activities within and outside the country so as to continue the struggle in defense of the democratic, representative and free enterprise system based on the concepts of private property, for the purpose of restoring the productive apparatus, generating wealth in this country and bringing the benefits of that wealth to all inhabitants;
- (3) To fight any idea leaning toward the introduction of totalitarian government, putting emphasis on respect for the will of the people expressed through the ballot;
- (4) To strengthen institutional actions so as to ensure that laws are observed and the rule of law is fully restored in this country;

(5) To support every government initiative, based on the concept of a free economy, aimed at revitalizing the national economy and improving the lot of the Salvadoran worker within a scheme that is consistent with the national situation;

(6) To support the holding of elections for the high authorities of the republic. Elections should be called this year with full guarantees of free elections, as in March 1982, rejecting the involvement in such elections of internal and external pressure groups which, on the pretext of helping, seize the opportunity to meddle in decisions that are solely and exclusively the domain of the sovereign people;

(7) To continue to give all the support for President Reagan's initiative of the aid program for Central American and Caribbean countries. This program will help countries of the region to have capital resources indispensable for economic recovery and attain goals of thorough improvement of our nations. Likewise, to work on the Reagan plan, which is equivalent to the Marshall Plan that was so successful in postwar Europe;

(8) To continue its activities for unity so that all of the concerns that make up the productive sector remain united and work harmoniously during this final phase of the battle we are waging to save the country from the international communist aggression, and from the known schemes of others while in government that have caused the economic destruction of the country, thereby increasing the suffering of our people who must recover social harmony and, based on sustained economic development, resolve their problems.

9925

CSO: 3248/1242

SCIS CALLS GUATEMALAN TRADE POLICY PROTECTIONIST

San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 26 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] Small Business asks the Salvadoran Government to demand that the government of Guatemala grant reciprocity in commercial relations and that a stop be put on the unequal treatment that that government gives to Salvadoran products with clear advantages for the industrial production of that country.

Mr Salvador Canahuati, national handicraft producer of handkerchiefs, said in a meeting of small businessmen from the Salvadoran Merchants and Industrial Association (SCIS), that Guatemalan authorities are producing in order to block entrance of any Salvadoran product in a show of national spirit by supporting only what Guatemala produces.

The same thing should be done here, he explained, so that they (the Guatemalans) feel what it is like to have a cornered market; what they have done to the Salvadorans who can only sell their products right here in their own country, saturating the market.

Mr Canahuati said the selfish and protectionist actions by the Guatemalan Government demonstrate that the Central American Common Market at this time is only "a myth."

Other small clothing merchants recounted obstacles put in their path so as to discourage them from taking merchandise to Guatemala and, in some cases, they are even detained by Guatemalan authorities and the merchandise they are carrying confiscated.

Small manufacturers of pyrotechnical products, metal furniture, shoes and others also complained.

9908

CSO: 3248/1244

COFFEE PRODUCERS PROTEST LACK OF INFORMATION FROM INCAFE

San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 23 Aug 83 pp 5, 35

[Text] Salvadoran coffee growers say they cannot continue with the system under which coffee is being marketed.

They indicate that to continue with this system, only leads them to increase their debts with lending institutions in the country.

The coffee growers show that it is necessary to take note of an important situation, which is:

"When private beneficiaries realized the marketing and sale of coffee and they incurred some deficits in business deals, it was their problem in particular and never was that loss imputed to the producer. The opposite happens with INCAFE which at the present time is only an intermediary."

They continue: "Engineer Enrique Alfaro Castillo says the coffee grower has all the authority to converse, question, investigate, criticize and make suggestions about INCAFE's activities; meanwhile, we demand that INCAFE inform the coffee growers sector and people in general all about the transactions it carries out in the sale and marketing of coffee through the country's major newspapers and at the same time inform about existing surpluses and the respective crops to which they pertain, because on the contrary, activities and negotiations by INCAFE are a 'taboo' for the Salvadoran coffee grower."

They also say it is of vital importance to emphasize that a series of measures designed to help the producer can be taken, for which they thank Eng Enrique Alvaro Castillo, president of INCAFE, and Mr Alberto Benitez Bonilla, president of the Central Bank, for the suggestions and measures taken.

But the coffee producers think that positive measures exist that can rectify in large part the coffee growing crisis and the Salvadoran people's crisis. Some of these, they say, will be made public tomorrow and part of the situation in marketing coffee and the distressing economic situation of producers due to mistaken maneuvers by INCAFE, an organization whose negativeness is clearly manifest, will be pointed out, the coffee growers concluded.

9908

CSO: 3248/1244

BRIEFS

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH ARGENTINA--Elimination of a series of tariff barriers by the Commercial Agreement between Argentina and our country was signed yesterday in its Foreign Ministry. The agreement was signed by Dr Fidel Chavez Mena, minister of foreign affairs, Federico Alberto Shonenberg, minister of foreign trade and the subsecretary from the same office, Dr Jorge Ernesto Recinos for El Salvador; and for the Argentine Republic, Dr Victor Jorge Bianculli. The foreign minister, after signing the agreement, thanked the Argentine Government for its collaboration and help given by the South American nation to our people in these critical times. On its behalf, the ambassador, Dr Bianculli, said the removal of some tariff barriers will greatly foster interchange between both republics. [Text] [Sal Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 27 Aug 83 p 5] 9908

CSO: 3248/1244

BRIEFS

DLP RESIGNATION--Bernard Nicholas, a member of the Dominica Labour Party for over 30 years, walked into the NEW CHRONICLE office on Wednesday and announced: "I have resigned as General Secretary and member of the Party as from August 9." He said the reason for his resignation was that he disagreed with certain methods which, he thought, were contrary to the Party's policies. These inconsistencies, he said, have been continuing for quite a long time--roughly from 1968 to the present time. He has been in the Party for over 30 years and he felt that if this attitude continued under the present leadership and the Labour Party were to gain political power, "this would be most detrimental to Dominica." The Labour Party has been consistently in power since 1960 to the time Eugenia Charles (Dominica Freedom Party) became Prime Minister, except for the interim government (1979-80). Mr Nicholas represented Roseau North under the Labour Party. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 2]

UNION ACCORD--After only two days of negotiations the National Workers Union reached an agreement with West Indies Oil Company with effect from July 21. A statement from the union described the speed of the negotiations as "historic." The agreement makes provisions for increased vacation leave and transport allowance among other fringe benefits. This was one of five agreements NWU has completed so far this year. These agreements have been reached also with P.H. Williams and Co. Ltd., manufacturers of concrete block and aggregate mining; Springfield Guest House and Plantation, Cable and Wireless (Dominica branch), responsible for telephone and telex services; Raffoul Bakery and Depots, sellers of breads and cakes. Meanwhile a draft proposal for a new contract covering 1983-84 has been submitted to Springfield. The Cable and Wireless negotiations were the longest, some two months and involved the unsuccessful intervention of a tribunal. Eventually, agreement was reached for 10 percent salaries and wages increase from January 1 with fringe benefits. The negotiations with P.H. Williams lasted a week and workers received an average percentage on salary and wages of 25 percent over two years from January 15. Other fringe benefits include increased vacation leave. Negotiations are pending with Macoucherie Estate, rum manufacturers and on behalf of seamen on the boat Douwe's. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 7]

EMPLOYMENT SAFETY ACT--Government is moving to implement provisions of an act that provides for the safety of workers in their place of work. The move to implement the Employment Safety Act was made recently by the Minister for Industrial Relations, Brian Alleyne. Mr Alleyne has designated a number of persons to perform the duties of safety officers. The Act empowers safety officers to enter, for inspection, places at any hour of the day or night. Such inspection has to be in connection with the health and safety of employees. [Text] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 7]

NETHERLANDS AID--The Dominica-based lime and passion fruit project is to receive US \$500,000 in aid funds from the Dutch Government through the Caribbean Food Corporation (CFC). The allocation is part of an overall Netherlands Government's financial aid package of US \$5 million which is accessible to the CFS for various regional investments. Dominica Agro-Industries Limited, formed last year by the Dominica Government, has already begun the rehabilitation of its own lime plantation, and is encouraging Dominican farmers to do the same. Last year the plant bought some 1.74 million pounds of limes which it converted into 80,135 gallons of lime juice and 4,568 pounds of concentrated lime oil. Apart from Dominica Government the company's shareholders include the CFC and a group of North American Investors. These investment funds complement the technical assistance--US \$400,000--already given to the CFC by the Dutch Government. The technical assistance came in the form of a long-term expert in food processing attached to the CFC and a local counterpart. There were also some short-term experts in the fields of broiler production, leather tanning, fisheries and project identification. [Excerpt] [Roseau THE NEW CHRONICLE in English 30 Jul 83 p 12]

CSO: 3298/886

PNC BIENNIAL CONGRESS OPENS; SPEECHES REPORTED

DPRK Delegation

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 9 Aug 83 pp 1, 4

[Text]

VICE MINISTER of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cde Kim Hyong U, who has been on a visit to this country for the past week, is very impressed with what Guyana has achieved with Korean aid.

Conveying his impressions to Vice President for Party and State Matters Camille Ramsaroop, Cde Hyong U said Guyana would remain favourably considered in respect of future assistance.

The two Ministers met at Cde Ramsaroop's Public Buildings office for more than an hour

yesterday morning on the eve of the Korean Vice-Minister's departure.

Cde Ramsaroop who is also Chairman of the governing People's National Congress said they discussed matters pertaining to Party and State affairs.

They reviewed the continuing relations between the PNC and the Workers' Party of Korea and Cde Ramsaroop was told that the ruling party in Korea would be sending a high level delegation to the Fifth Biennial Congress of the PNC which starts in Georgetown next Sunday.

Bilateral issues also featured during their conversation. Cde Ramsaroop told the Chronicle afterwards.

Minister Hyong U visited two major projects which benefited from Korean assistance — the MARDS workshop at Mahabony, and the Onverwagt Irrigation Scheme.

Through Cde Hyong U the Koreans have already promised further assistance for the two schemes and follow-up discussions are to take place on other programmes the Guyana Government wants to pursue with Korean co operation.

Other Foreign Delegations

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE majority of overseas delegations to the Fifth Biennial Congress of the ruling People's National Congress were expected to arrive in the country last evening.

Senior party officials, including representatives of the Women's

Revolutionary Socialist Movement (WRSM), were on hand at Timehri International Airport to meet the various delegations.

A number of overseas-based Guyanese party delegates, and a representative of a political party in

Dominica came in late Thursday evening. They were met on arrival by international affairs personnel from the Party.

The delegates will participate in the formal deliberations of the congress and will also be taken on tours to various places of interests and projects which their countries have assisted the Guyana Government in completing.

And for the first time in the history of the congress, Vietnam and Zimbabwe will be represented. Congress starts on Sunday.

In picture below, Mr. Irving Knights of Dominica is welcomed at Timehri by International Affairs Desk officials George Ault and Sam Kenjay shortly after deplaning. Kenjay is a Zimbabwean student on attachment to the National Mobilisation Ministry.

Congress Aims

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 14 Aug 83 pp 9, 20

[Text]

THE Biennial Congress is the highest decision-making forum of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) under the able leadership of President Forbes Burnham.

Congress elects officers, members of the Central Executive and the General Council to take charge of running the Party until it meets again two years later, or before, if the situation warrants a Special Congress.

For any change of the Constitution or structure of the Party, Congress is the sole authority.

The Fifth Biennial Congress being held at the Sophia Convention Centre is expected to attract nearly 5,500 delegates among them a wide cross-section of the Guyanese nation. The Congress opens today and ends Sunday.

This Congress is being held at a crucial time, when Guyana is still struggling to free itself from the crippling grip of a world economic crisis brought on by the economic policies of the developed world.

At this time, too, the Reagan administration of the United States is bent on pressuring this nation to revert to the exploitative capitalist mode of development.

Delegates and observers will have to identify solutions to

problems facing Guyana, especially since a loan for the modernisation of the rice industry has been blocked.

There is also need to ensure that these organisations set up for the benefit of the people function effectively and efficiently. Among these are the lending institutions, state organisations, distribution outlets and the co-operative movement.

Congress will look at amendments to be made to the Constitution of the PNC. Proposed amendments are designed to make the Party relate more to the democratic organs which originated with the promulgation of the People's New Constitution. Some amendments aim at reorganising the Party for more efficient operations.

Party Leader Cde Burnham is scheduled to give his address to Congress tomorrow, setting the tone for other deliberations during the eight-day meeting and giving guidelines for the development of this nation.

Sources close to Cde Burnham say the address will deal with such issues as the recent cancellation of loans to Guyana, the state of the nation and the role of the leaders in the society.

PNC General Secretary Cde Ptolemy

Reid will address the Congress Tuesday.

One highpoint of the week is the formal opening of Stage One of the first phase of the MMA project at Onverwagt, Wednesday afternoon, when Cde Burnham will be the main speaker.

A grand cultural presentation will be held at the National Cultural Centre Friday as part of Congress activities.

..Next Sunday, the Congress deliberations climax with a mammoth rally at the 1743 Monument, where Cde Burnham will be the chief speaker.

For today's opening, there will be a guard of honour, a cultural presentation by the Young Developers and chants by the WRSB, women's arm of the PNC.

Registration begins at 8:00 hrs. The opening ceremony is scheduled for 16:00 hrs and President Burnham is to arrive at Congress site at 17:10 hrs.

Party Chairman, Cde. Cammie Ramsaroop, is to give the opening address, while a number of overseas delegates will deliver special greetings.

Burnham on U.S. Action

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 4

[Text]

President Forbes Burnham has described the United States Government's threat to block the 156-million dollar loan for the MMA water control project as an attempt to dictate to Guyana what its policies should be.

He contended that by its threat, the United States Government was implying that we are not free to pursue our own road to development and that we do not have the right to make our own policy decisions.

"This is not mere meddling in our internal affairs, but dictation. We must conform or else," he said in his address this morning to the Fifth Biennial Congress of the governing People's National Congress (PNC).

Noting that the US Government had indicated that its objections to concessionary funding from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for the Second Phase of Stage

One of the MMA project were based on "technical and economic policy considerations."

President Burnham noted that the Reagan Administration "as a matter of theology and ideology disagrees violently" with Guyana's economic policies and would have them 'corrected'.

He stressed, however, that "to become a client state is to take the easier course".

But, contending that little do the Americans understand the PNC and the resilience of the Guyanese people, he added, "We shall complete the MMA Second Phase, Stage I on time, if we have to dig the canals with our finger nails. We did not win our independence to yield to and accept recolonisation".

Cde. Burnham described the recent developments — the US decision to veto the IDB loan and cancellation of the rice modernisation II

and Black Bush Polder loans — as being "part of a plan".

Referring to US Treasury official, James Conrow's denial of the US's intention to block the IDB loan and to Conrow's statement that the Reagan Administration was awaiting the IDB's appraisal report, Cde. Burnham pointed out that the loan proposal would not have been listed for consideration unless an appraisal report had first been submitted and circulated.

Further, at last week's meeting of the IDB's Board of Executive Directors, the US maintained its opposition to the loan and is reported to have persisted in its threat to block the loan's approval.

President Burnham also referred to a letter dated July 30 from the USAID Representative in Guyana to Vice-President, Administration,

Desmond Hoyte, in which the Guyana Government was informed that the rice modernisation loan had been cancelled because of arrears of payments on other USAID loans.

He dismissed this letter as being "specious and unconvincing", since the USAID and all of Guyana's major creditors "have agreed to await a rescheduling which is to take place in the near future".

"In spite of asseverations to the contrary, it is olympianly difficult to escape or avoid the conclusion that the note of July 27 (outlining the US's threat to block the IDB loan) and the letter of July 30 are part of a plan and originate from the same source", he said.

The US Government, Cde. Burnham added, "would like to see Guyana's rice industry privatised, with the big millers being responsible for milling and marketing locally and

overseas to the exclusion of the state".

The US administration, he added, "wants all subsidies to consumers of rice removed and to let the so-called market place dictate prices".

"Unofficially, it has also contended that the bauxite industry should be handed over to the foreign private sector", he added.

He pointed out that political considerations were not supposed to influence the decisions of the IDB or any international multilateral institution. He noted that this rule seemed to be honoured in the breach.

He called on Guyanese to recognise the facts of the world and act accordingly.

Urging a continued and greater emphasis on agriculture, Cde. Burnham said: "Whatever happens, we must be self-sufficient in food and contribute to making our regions self-sufficient also". (GNA)

Burnham on Rice Project

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 83 p 1

"We shall complete the MMA Second Phase, Stage One on time. If we have to dig the canals with our fingernails. We did not win our independence to yield to, and accept recolonisation," PNC Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham emphasised to an international audience, yesterday. His defiant remark drew spontaneous applause lasting for several minutes.

Delivering the address to set the tone for the remaining six days of deliberations at the Fifth Biennial Congress at Sophia, Cde Burnham said that independence demands "Will and a hard fight."

His comments on the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary Project were prompted by the recent United States of America threat to block a \$54 US

million Inter-American Development Bank Loan for work on Phase Two of the project, and the cancellation by the US Government of a \$20 US million loan for further development of the rice industry.

Cde Burnham urged the more than 3 000 delegates and observers in the packed auditorium to look closely at the national situation and

attempt to find solutions to the problems. He told them, "whatever happens, we must be self-sufficient in food and contribute to making our region self-sufficient also." He called for ever greater emphasis on agriculture, and advised that efficient use be made of the 5 500 square miles of land already under cultivation.

Cde Burnham further encouraged party members to maintain such a direction by reminding them that legume production "has more than quadrupled in the last three years, providing vegetable protein for baby foods and adults." But he said, "this is only the beginning, for we must now move into a vast surplus position for storage and also for export in the first place into the Region. Animal protein calls for special attention as well as the edible oil, not only from cultivated species like the coconut, African oil palm, rice, cotton, and corn, but also from the

wild nuts like the awara, kokerite, turu, akuruyu, and sawari."

He said that at the same time, all means at the nation's disposal must be used to put in infrastructure to set into use the remaining twenty thousand square miles of agricultural lands, and all agricultural research and extension units must be strengthened and expanded.

The Party Leader announced that "a system of price and moral incentives is being devised to reflect the importance of the farmer."

"Credit facilities are being expanded and Agriculture Ministry research and extension personnel are tasked to help the farmer to increase productivity many times over."

"Cheap locally produced food must be a function of higher productivity, and not of a deliberate depression of the return to the producer," the President declared.

Burnham on Union Subversion

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

THE Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress (PNC) continued yesterday with Party Leader, President Forbes Burnham exhorting his followers not to relax their vigilance and let in the Trojan Horse.

"Let us all note — especially let the trade unions note, let the trade unionists note — that the Trade Union Movement has been selected as the target for subversion," Cde Burnham said in his keynote address this

morning.

In his two-hour address for which he was warmly and loudly applauded by the more than 3 000 local and overseas delegates and observers assembled at the Sophia Convention Centre, Cde Burnham spoke about, among other things, what he referred to as the "devious and macabre" tactics and the intrigues of those who would wish to recolonise Guyanese.

He also spoke about what he called a "polyglot gathering"

whose membership includes the "three heterogeneous political groups — the PPP, the WPA and the VLD".

In addition, Cde Burnham spoke in detail about the need for "clear-headed planning and the iron will to survive", about the "machinations" of the imperialists and their agents in and outside of Guyana and about the harsh realities of the current global economic crisis.

Speaking about the local economic crisis, he

pointed out that this crisis had forced Guyanese to apply their own initiative and imagination to the problems which they face, so that they may break out of their dependency syndrome.

This application of initiative and imagination has already resulted in the local production of margarine from local wild nuts (the margarine was put on

sale at Congress yesterday) and in the production of items such as chalk from local resources, ceramic tableware and bandages.

He noted that other and larger projects will come to maturation next year but cautioned Guyanese against deluding themselves into believing that the path forward is smooth or that the battle is already won.

(GNA)

Party Chairman's Address

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

THE People's National Congress is stronger and more united than it was two years ago, Party Chairman, Cde. Cammie Ramsaroop declared to delegates to the Fifth Biennial Congress at Sophia on Sunday afternoon.

Explaining this position, he said that it is a "well-known characteristic" of the P.N.C. in which it always rises to any occasion and surmounts whatever difficulties faced it. He added that the "sense of personal and Party renewal has been particularly marked and widespread over the last several months."

These statements from Cde Ramsaroop were part of his opening address to the Congress. Before the Chairman's presentation, which lasted one hour, Leader of the Party, Cde Forbes Burnham, had inspected a guard-of-honour then entered the packed auditorium accompanied by executives of the P.N.C.

Cde Ramsaroop reflected upon the current economic situation and stated that "many perceive our

material standard of living as about to collapse."

He conceded that many goods such as certain types of food, machinery parts, and raw materials essential for industry were unobtainable or in short supply, in addition that the main sectors of the economy were not showing any marked improvement.

The Chairman stated that these "declining material facilities have been reflected in our bureaucracies becoming slower and not as effective as formerly."

He warned the people that "enemies of the People's National Congress and of Socialism, poseurs in our country both here and abroad, have seen in such conditions an opportunity for trying to stir up as much trouble as they could, and bring as much pressure as possible on Party and Government."

But the P.N.C. executive assured one and all that there was no reason for despair as there are many "healthy trends" in the nation's economic life, including an upward trend in the

prices for exports such as sugar, rice, and bauxite.

He further stated that if these prices were not rising fast enough, comfort can be taken in the fact that other sectors of the economy are making positive movements.

He used examples of forestry and fishery. The Upper Demerara Forestry Project and the Interior Forestry Products Limited were quoted as industries coming on stream next year with the potential to double forestry production. The increase of Guyana Fisheries Limited's fishing fleet was referred to as a feature that will boost the earning of foreign exchange by augmenting the shrimp catch.

Agriculture was more vibrant than ever; legumes and other green vegetables were being produced in greater quantities to meet the growing demand, and the gold industry is on the upswing.

Guyana has deposits of oil, and he expressed confidence that in time the nation will have a viable oil industry.

Cde Ramsaroop had some harsh words for many party members, indicating that all is not well with the performance of functionaries. He reiterated a call made by himself last Congress in 1981 for the removal of square pegs. He chided Regional Chairmen who devoted most of their time to the performance of state functions at the expense of party responsibilities.

"They do not see a totality and completeness with respect to their responsibilities." For them, he said, "I hope they apply their minds to get a fuller perception of their duties."

He announced that the party had begun "a serious spring-cleaning and is involved in a full-scale drive for renewal."

He accused many leaders of being "too

centrally bound" and seeming "to live in a cocoon of their own. They do not reach out to the people, and as such our people do not reach out to them."

"We must never live in a vacuum and believe that the P.N.C. is for only P.N.C. members and supporters. The P.N.C. is for the people of Guyana, so it has been, so it is, and so it shall be forever."

Burnham on Agriculture

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham yesterday reiterated that agriculture in Guyana must continue to be the solid rock on which our economy stands.

"It is crucial to our survival, and even when our hydro power, mineral, oil, and, other resources are developed, we cannot afford to neglect it," he declared.

Speaking at the Fifth Biennial Congress of the ruling People's National Congress, he said that the question is whether we as a people, have the will to pursue development single-handedly.

According to the Guyanese leader, the kitchen garden, the co-operative, the private farmer, the administrative region and the state would all be involved in the co-ordinated national programme.

He disclosed that a system of price and moral incentives is being devised, to reflect the importance of the farmer.

Credit facilities are also being expanded, and the Agriculture Ministry's research and

extension personnel are being tasked to help the farmer to increase productivity many times over, added President Burnham.

The Guyana head of state said that the disciplinary services as well as the schools and other educational institutions also have a pivotal role to play in the plan for survival.

Emphasis, he said, will be placed on those products and crops which ensure a balanced diet for every Guyanese at a reasonable cost.

And in reviewing the agricultural performance, Cde. Burnham pointed out that our legume production has more than quadrupled in the last three years, providing vegetable protein for baby foods and adults.

"But this is only the beginning," he declared, "for we must now move into a vast surplus position for storage, and also for export in the first place into the region."

Simultaneously, he continued, we must seek by all means at our disposal to provide progressively the in-

frastructure to put into effective use the remaining 20 000 square miles of agricultural land.

As part of the strategy, the President said that cotton production will have to be expanded from the present acreage of one thousand to at least twelve thousand, as it is the source of textile, edible oil and stockfeed.

The President was high in praise for members of the disciplinary services for the fine example they have been setting in the campaign for national food self-sufficiency.

Each educational institution, he noted, must be a production unit, and agricultural science must cease being an academic and theoretical subject.

(GNA)

Praise From Foreign Delegates

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 17 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

The urgent need for a "fair and just international economic order" which takes into consideration the needs of developing countries was yesterday reiterated by visiting delegates from Tanzania and Yugoslavia.

Tanzania's Ambassador to the United States, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa, and Sinan Hasan of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia who are attending the Fifth Biennial Congress of the ruling PNC, also emphasised the importance of world peace and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

Addressing workers of the ministries of Economic Planning and Manpower and Co-operatives at a special meeting yesterday afternoon, the two delegates expressed the desire for a further strengthening of relations between Guyana and their countries.

Present at the session was Manpower and Co-operatives Minister, Kenneth Denny, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Planning Leslie Johnson, and Chief Labour Officer, Oscar Moore, who informed workers of some of the historical, social and economic facts of Tanzania and Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, speaking on behalf of his party, Cde Hasan referred to the growing gap between the developed and developing countries, which he described as one of the major problems facing the international community.

He also expressed concern over recent developments in Central America. The League of Communists of

Yugoslavia, he said, respects the rights of the Central American peoples in their struggle for national liberation, free from external interference.

Cde Hasan's statements were echoed by the Tanzanian Ambassador who spoke on behalf of his country's revolutionary party, the Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM).

Cde Mkapa, who expressed admiration for Guyana's successes under the banner of socialism and unity, said the New International Economic Order should be founded on the principles of equity, which will enable small nations to assert sovereignty over their natural resources.

International peace, he said, should be founded on the precepts of international law, and could be best promoted through respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Tanzanian delegate spoke out against colonial racist oppression. He praised Guyana's support for the peoples of Africa, Asia and the Middle East in their struggle against the scourges of colonialism and racism.

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

HEAD of the Grenadian delegation to the Fifth Biennial Congress, Mr. George Louison, has vehemently reiterated his country's right to choose its friends.

In an interview with the Chronicle, the delegate, who is Grenada's Minister of Agriculture, was responding to the issue of that country's links with Cuba and the Soviet Union.

While re-affirming his country's non-aligned policy, Mr. Louison argued that the waging of "a most vulgar campaign" of destabilisation on all fronts by the United States against Grenada, had made it imperative for his country to diversify relations with other members of the international community.

He further indicated that most of the counter-revolutionary activities

perpetrated in his country had external origins, but declared that at the internal level, "there is a lot of room for political discussion".

The delegate clarified criticisms about his government's failure to adhere to the Westminster model of electoral procedure, which deems it necessary for elections to be held every five years.

He charged that countries which still use the Westminster model were hindering their peoples from achieving real development through free expression. And he viewed the democratisation process currently taking place in Grenada as being more appropriate for that country's development.

Testifying to the great success of the monthly zonal, parish and worker council

meetings, Mr. Louison said that such measures ensured the full participation of people at all levels in the decision-making process.

The delegate saw as essential the need for recognition on the regional level of each country's right to pursue its own course, contending that ideological pluralism is an "irreversible fact".

The need for peace and the absolute necessity for the Caribbean to be designated a Zone of Peace is of paramount importance as without peace the full development of people cannot be achieved.

In this respect Mr. Louison asserted his country's support for a hemispheric peace plan and reaffirmed Grenada's solidarity with Nicaragua in its attempts to find a basis for dialogue and peace.

Reid Report

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

THE People's National Congress has stayed on course and in step with Socialist construction. And in the face of ferocious attitudes and raw aggression, it has given proof of its political stability, PNC General Secretary Ptolemy Reid said in his report to a packed Sophia Convention Centre.

He was presenting the General Secretary's report to the more than 3 000 local and overseas delegates and observers attending the current Fifth Biennial Congress of the governing PNC.

In his well received 60-page report, the General Secretary stressed that the Party needs to put together a strong group of party leaders and who "in the prime of

their lives" are "unfaltering revolutionaries".

He said that since the last Biennial Congress, the People's National Congress, "has stayed on

course and in step with Socialist construction due to the unfaltering trust between our party and steadfast people".

"The People's National Congress, despite ferocious attacks and raw aggression of every type on the part of the enemies within and without Guyana, has given proof of its political stability, its correct thrust in the use of its economic potential, and has manifested itself as a bulwark for peace not conflict," Cde Reid said.

The Party's General Secretary stressed that Party comrades must be fully aware of the need for "an unprecedented rise in economic and political work".

For the Party to maintain its achievement and progress, greater efforts — "both qualitatively and quantitatively" — must come forth, he stressed.

And, appealing for appreciation of the problem at hand, Cde Reid added: "We must grow to understand the pains and bitterness of this relatively new type of socio-economic construction and to assess

our political advance correctly".

In a special word of praise for those members who have shown great faith in the Party, he paid special tribute to the womenfolk who, he said, "have set aflame the fighting spirit of our Party and have fortified the will to survive".

He called his report a "frank and unreserved presentation" of the tasks to be performed and to be resolved, and he reminded that, for the PNC, socialism is about the production of goods and services by and for the people.

Turning his attention to members of the Young Socialist Movement

(YSM), youth arm of the Party, he said they should organise, from their ranks, a strong corps to shoulder work of "any type".

"With knowledge, experience, and youthful enthusiasm and zeal" the youth of the Party have the opportunity to become the backbone of the Party and of the government, the General Secretary stressed.

Leaders identified by the Party, he said, must seek to be well educated and must endeavour to be technically and professionally competent.

Report on Congress Deliberations

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

TWO of the key features so far of the current Fifth Biennial Congress of the governing People's National Congress (PNC) have been the high level of participation by members of all ranks and the frank exchanges on various issues, including those pertaining to the functioning of the Party machinery.

The questions-and-motions sessions of the Congress, for example, have been characterised by spirited comments by delegates — a feature which typifies each Party Congress, the highest decision-making forum of the PNC and a feature which bears the hallmarks of participatory democracy.

At the current Congress, Party members presented motions dealing with matters such as the poor attendance at group meetings by Ministers of

the Government and by parliamentarians and other senior party functionaries.

They also dealt with matters such as "scandalous" and unfounded reports in the opposition Press, the representation of youths at Party Congress and the alleged victimisation of Party members at worksites.

DEBATE

One motion recommending "positive action" to enforce regular attendance by Ministers and other top functionaries at their Party group meetings was passed after much debate and clarification.

One speaker stressed that in terms of attendance "example must be set from the top". The delegate was supported by a hubbub of assenting voices from the floor of the Sophia Convention Centre.

The motion was carried eventually on the understanding that the groups themselves have the power to exercise sanctions against delinquent members, however highly placed.

Motions were also passed supporting the government in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and recommending increased wages for paid party workers.

In the latter motion, the party's Second Vice-Chairman, Steve Narine, commented that delegates should bear in mind the principle "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work," when considering any wage increase.

He offered support for the motion, but warned that the proposal was like "a double-edged sword". Those who failed to earn their pay, he said, would have to go. The only motion defeated by actual vote was one presented by the Young Socialist Movement (YSM), seeking an amendment to allow greater YSM representation at Party congresses, even without increased membership.

SUPPORT

Heavy vocal support from the floor failed to have the motion passed, after party General Secretary and Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid advised that an increase in representation for the YSM would be the result of increased membership in the party's youth arm.

Some of the motions were withdrawn, among them a proposal that Congress should support moves for special legislation to protect the government against scandalous allegations in the opposition Press.

Justice Minister Mohamed Shahabuddeen responded to the motion with an assurance that existing legislation "is adequate for all practical purposes."

Difficulties may however arise in cases where the publication is of overseas origin, he said. On the basis of the Justice Minister's response, the mover of the motion opted to withdraw.

Another motion was withdrawn after Vice-President Production, Hamilton Green, contended that working in the agricultural sector should not be associated with sanctions against repeated criminal offenders. (GNA).

POST-STRIKE GUYMINE TALKS WITH UNIONS IN STALEMATE

WPA Position

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 8 Aug 83 pp 3, 4

[Text] WPA Release, August 8, 1983:

The Working People's Alliance can afford to ignore the after-strike unsigned FACT SHEET issued on behalf of the PNC to bauxite workers. The attacks on the WPA about a link with Mr Burnham's sponsors, the CIA, are too absurd. It will not by silence, however, give any credit to the slanderers using the WPA in order to raise doubts about GMWU union officials because they may have some plot against the security of these officials.

The FACT SHEET is headed "The Bauxite Strike--Know the Truth." It is outstanding for its lack of truth.

WPA upholds the right to freedom of association for any citizen of Guyana according to written constitutional guarantees. It is strongly of the view that every citizen should defend the right to belong to any political party or religion or to none, according to the citizen's own choice. Asserting this right is seen by the PNC as rebellion.

However, this should not give unsigned FACT SHEETS the right to use the WPA conveniently, in order to frame-up persons it chooses to harm. The statement in the SHEET that "Afrani, Fyfe, Lietch and Thompson" were given a task "at a meeting at Afrani's home in One Mile, Wismar on Sunday 13th March, where Kwayana, de Souza and other WPA activists were present" is a brazen falsehood.

Neither the WPA activists named, nor any other, met the persons listed on the FACT SHEET at the home of brother Afrani, or at any other house, on that day, or any other day, for the purpose suggested, or incidentally, for any other purpose.

WPA activists will defend the right of citizens to visit any part of Guyana at any time and consequently are not seeking to deny visiting the home of brother Afrani from time to time.

In order to clarify any doubts, WPA considers it necessary to declare that Messrs Fyfe, Lietch and Thompson, as it happens, are not members of the Working People's Alliance.

Status of Talks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 10 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

THE post-resumption talks between Guymine and the two unions representing bauxite workers have ended without any conclusive agreements being reached, reliable sources close to the talks said yesterday.

The talks which got underway on July 30, ended last Friday (August 5) the last day which had been set aside in the terms of resumption agreement signed by the parties on July 15 last.

The sources said that shortly before the talks ended, Guymine representatives indicated to the two unions, that the company had been pushed to the position of reviewing the state of the industry singlehandedly and now that that exercise has been completed, the unions would be informed in writing, consistent with the spirit of the collective labour agreement.

Meanwhile, reports from the Manpower and Co-operatives Ministry yesterday said that since the talks ended, Guymine has been in touch with the Ministry outlining the latest position but the Ministry has not yet heard from the two unions, the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU) and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors Union (GBSU).

In keeping with the terms of resumption, the

GMWU had agreed to withdraw its letter dated May 25, 1983 in which it had informed the company of its intention to stage weekly one-day strikes to protest the food situation at Linden and to back its demands for the importation of among other things, wheat, split peas and drugs.

On the other hand, Guymine had agreed to restore the five-day work-week in place of the three-day work-week it had introduced for workers in some sections of its Linden operations.

In keeping with clause "C" (I) of the terms of resumption, the company and the two unions had undertaken to "meet to discuss and examine within the period of 17 days ... the economic circumstances in the industry which led to the reduction of the work-week and to make recommendations for the immediate reduction of the company's operating costs."

During the 17-day period the parties held nine meetings at the Mackenzie High School. At the Sixth meeting however, the sources explained, an impasse developed with the parties disagreeing over the interpretation of clause "C" (I) of the terms of resumption.

The sources explained that the stalemate was arrived at when at the sixth meeting company

Chairman Dunston Barrow invited Guymine's Kwakwani representative to make his presentation about Guymine's Kwakwani operations.

By that time, presentations had already been made about the operations, functions and problems of the mines, the Bauxite Plant (processing) the mechanical department and the Bauxite Plant (maintenance) sectors of the Guymine's Linden operations.

Throughout the presentations, the source said, questions were put by both unions with a view to eliciting clarifications, highlighting weaknesses, and making recommendations for improvements.

However, the unions contended that discussing the Berbice operations would have meant the introduction of a new dimension contrary to the terms of resumption.

The company, on the other hand, insisted that any examination of the "economic circumstances of the industry" must take into account the company's Berbice operations.

At that stage, the Manpower and Co-operatives Minister, Kenneth Denny, was invited to mediate and to give his interpretation of the clause which was

under dispute. The parties met and held two sessions of discussions under Comrade Denny's chairmanship and reportedly agreed with his interpretation that the clause referred to the economic circumstances of the entire industry including Guymine's Berbice operations.

At those discussions, it was agreed also that:

- +The parties should summarise the eight days of discussions they had already held

- +the parties should determine jointly what should be their next step

— and

- +the parties should determine for themselves the order of their discussions.

However, on the resumption of the talks at Linden on August 5, the last day stipulated in the terms of the resumption agreement, another stalemate developed. The issue, on this occasion, the sources explained, was whether an extended time frame for the discussions should be looked at before an examination of the sequence or order any

further discussions should follow.

The unions reportedly insisted that any extension of time should be examined before examining the sequence of further discussions while Guymine advocated that the sequence of further discussions should be looked at first.

The parties remained rigid about their respective positions and the talks ended without any conclusive agreements being reached, the sources explained.

(GNA)

Guymine Proposals

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 14 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

IN ANOTHER bid to evaluate the operations of the local bauxite industry and to promote dialogue with the two unions representing bauxite workers, Guymine has written the two unions inviting them to a meeting tomorrow.

The meeting which is scheduled to begin at 15:00 hours at Guymine's Training Conference Room, has been called to inform the unions about and to discuss with them a package of proposals intended to impact on the level of the company's operating costs.

The company has also written Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives Kenneth Denny expressing its "deep disappointment over the fact that the ... (post resumption) discussions (with the unions) ended without the company having made all its presentations" which, according to company Chairman Dunstan Barrow "would have facilitated the objectives of the discussions".

The recent talks between Guymine and representatives of the Guyana Mine Workers' Union (GMWU) and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union (GBSU) ended on August 5 without any conclusive agreements being reached.

Meanwhile in its letter to Minister Denny the company also stated that it has reviewed the situation within the industry and has arrived at a package of proposals which is intended to impact on the level of Guymine's operating costs.

The two unions have already indicated their willingness to attend tomorrow's meeting called by Guymine. This indication was given at a joint press conference Friday hosted by the two unions at which the unions' representatives spoke about several issues which they said were affecting the company's operations. —

(GNA).

Threat of Layoffs

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

GEROGETOWN, Guyana, Wednesday, (CANA) —

Guyana's state-owned bauxite industry proposes to retrench 1 700 of its 6 000 staffers in a cost-cutting exercise a source close to the Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU) said here today.

The Guyana Mining Enterprise (GUYMINE) told the GMWU and the Guyana bauxite supervisors union of its proposal at a meeting yesterday, the source said.

The proposal is part of a package formulated by GUYMINE to counter economic difficulty facing the sector, which was recently hit by a six week strike.

The union source told CANA the package was worked out by GUYMINE without any involvement on the part of the GMWU and the GBSU which, together with the company, had been involved in a similar cost-cutting exercise which ended abruptly on August 5.

The GMWU is holding a special meeting tonight with it membership to bring them up to date on the situation which the union says now threatens the industrial relations climate at both Linden and Berbice operating sites.

CSO: 3298/924

GUYSUCO FIGURES SHOW HARVEST RESULTS FOR VARIOUS CROPS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] Rice, legumes and inland fish cultivations have been the major activities of the Other Crops Division (OCD) of the Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco) so far for 1983.

In an interview Thursday, OCD Manager Ronald Fraser said the Corporation has abandoned its onion cultivation programme because of heavy losses from theft. Only very small plots will be cultivated on some of Guysuco's estates, he added.

In addition, the OCD is to hand over its cassava projects at Charity and Kaituma to the respective Regional Administrations.

Commenting on the various harvests so far for this year, the OCD manager said the first rice crop at Manarabisi yielded 22,906 bags of paddy at an average of 18 bags per acre.

Unfavourable harvesting conditions were the primary cause of this comparatively poor yield, Cde Fraser pointed out.

Guysuco plants the Starbonnet variety of rice and has estimated that it will reap approximately 11 700 bags of paddy from its 1983 Second Crop.

And, on the question of legume production, Cde Fraser said small experimental crops of urid, and minica were planted during the long rainy season.

These crops, harvested during July, yielded 475 kilograms (1 045 pounds) of Urid per hectare and 350 kilograms (770 pounds) of minica per

hectare, the OCD manager said.

The August 3 edition of 'Sugar News' reported that for 1983, 11 759 kilograms (26 132 pounds) of urid, 7 629 kilograms ((17 399 pounds)) of mung, 225 kilograms (504 pounds) of minica, 3 150 kilograms (.7 020 pounds) of sorghum and 4 237 kilograms (9,460 pounds) of corn have been reaped from the Corporation's plots.

Meanwhile, fish production facilities at Bath are being expanded

to accommodate a hatchery, the construction of which is expected to begin at the end of this month.

'Sugar News' also reported that an additional 16 acres of commercial and fingerling production ponds will be installed at Bath.

So far for this year, 14 715 pounds of fish were harvested from 10 acres of ponds. — (GNA).

CSO: 3298/924

PPP REGIONAL MEETINGS FOCUS ON DETRIMENTAL PNC POLICIES

Georgetown MIRROR in English 14 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] People's Progressive Party General Secretary Dr. Cheddi Jagan, paid a successful visit to Bartica and surrounding communities up the Essequibo River between Friday, August 5-9. In various localities the PPP leader was given an enthusiastic welcome and held meetings with members, supporters and the public.

Among the places where meetings were held were Central and Mile-and-a-Half Bartica, Skull Point, Monkey Jump, River View, Kaow Island, St. Mary, Wineperu and Anarika. Apart from meeting residents, Dr. Jagan took the opportunity to survey the living and working conditions of these interior residents, many of whom are Amerindians.

In Bartica, two public meetings were held. The one in Central Bartica drew hundreds of residents. The huge crowd that turned out to listen to the General Secretary was given yet another example of PNC's hooliganism and contempt for freedom, when they sought to break up the meeting. There was a sudden blackout during the meeting. Many saw this as deliberate since there had been no blackouts for months in Bartica. Immediately after, bottles were hurled at the crowd and a loudspeaker was stolen by a known PNC-ite. The crowd, however, defied the threats and stayed in the darkness to listen to the General Secretary.

On Monday, August 7, a picketing demonstration headed by Dr. Jagan, protesting deals with the IMF, was staged at two points: one by the state food outlet and the other by the market square. At the time of the picket a sign was in front of the outlet reading: No rice, no sugar, no oil, no salt, etc, etc. And so on! At one point the police attempted to halt the picketing but the demonstrators persisted.

This extreme shortage of essential foods was found everywhere, where the People's Progressive Party delegation went. The acute food shortage is accompanied by heavy blackmarketing. A gallon of rice can fetch as much as \$9, and a pound of sugar as much as \$2. Other essential services, especially transportation were found lacking. The overwhelming majority of people expressed their disgust at the PNC regime and the strong desire for a change in their miserable existence.

At the meetings Dr. Jagan, accompanied by PPP Central Committee Member, Gerald Beaton, spoke of the wrong PNC policies that have wrecked the economy, the undemocratic methods of PNC rule and the development of the people's struggle against the current decline. The PPP's proposals for a broad based government representing the Guyanese population, based on the principles of anti-imperialism, democracy and socialist-orientation were widely accepted.

The PPP General Secretary related the growing struggles of workers and called for greater unity of the working people, both politically and racially, and for increased militancy against the PNC. He called for greater action among workers to force their trade unions to assume a more positive stance in order to heighten the people's struggle for change.

At the same time Dr. Jagan warned that many opposition forces are attempting to confuse the nation as to the solutions and direction the country must take to bring about changes. He pointed out that the WPA, which had first advocated socialism, anti-imperialism and democracy, has now gone back on those commitments and joined right-wing forces, such as the VLD, WPVP and the RWA. He pointed out that these forces are out to slander and destroy the PPP but they will fail. "They have no sound, positive alternative to the PPP positions," he declared, but want a solution that will continue along the road of dependent capitalism.

The hundreds of residents that met with the General Secretary, expressed hope in the PPP and their commitment to continue the fight against the PNC for a better future.

In the meantime, it is understood that as in other places, pensioners in Bartica are having their books confiscated. Also, government employees, paid with cheques, are having a hard time changing same. They have to go from shop to shop to get them changed. For weeks, no cargo boat has taken foodstuffs to the area. The residents are demanding emergency action to ease the acute food crisis at Bartica and surrounding areas.

Picture [not reproduced] shows Dr. Jagan, along with supporters, at the picket line, against the IMF, for food, jobs, land, and higher wages in Central Bartica.

CSO: 3298/922

PPP SCORES PNC FOR ACCEPTING IMF-IMPOSED CONDITIONS

Georgetown MIRROR in English 14 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Last Friday, PPP General Secretary, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, held a press conference at the Party's Headquarters, Freedom House, on the impending new IMF deal with the PNC regime. Below is the full text of a press release issued at the conference:

The PNC regime is gearing to accept an IMF-imposed 60 per cent devaluation of the Guyana dollar.

A previous devaluation resulted in G\$2.50 = US\$1 being changed to G\$3.03 = US\$1. The new devaluation will mean: G\$5 = US\$1. This will cause a rapid rise in the prices of imported consumer goods, raw materials, spare parts, equipment and vehicles. Every facet of life will be adversely affected, including even locally-produced "ground provisions," which are already highly priced, ranging from \$1 to \$2 per pound. The debt payments, which now consumes about 3/4 of the current revenue will be greatly increased, thus adding with a wage freeze, more burdens on the people. Even the PNC organ indicated that the new IMF package will be a "recipe to riot."

All patriotic Guyanese must now speak out with one voice: No to the IMF. The PPP wishes to remind the public that when in 1978 it warned against the IMF, the PNC shouted its praise. But experience has shown that the PPP was right. Instead of recovery, the IMF "medicine" has brought misery.

The Party reiterates that IMF conditions for loans and credits to Third World countries hinge on capitalistic domestic formulas, foreign dependency relations with the imperialist states, and attacks on the living standards of the working people. These conditions cannot develop a nation. On the contrary, they increase its debt ridden status and sow the seeds of conflict, repression, and stagnation.

Since 1978, the IMF's packages have been undertaken, but in 1983 no improvement in the economy or society is discernible. Between 1977-81, the GDP went down by 9 per cent and in 1982 alone it went down by 8 per cent in an accelerated nose dive. The IMF is therefore no solution to Guyana's teeming problems.

Even the PNC hecklers in 1982 during the TUC demonstration against the 13 per cent increase in electricity charges, were forced to shout "Is IMF fault."

The PPP calls on organisations and individuals to voice and demonstrate their protest. Everything must be done to stop the government from succumbing to the IMF and devaluing the dollar.

There is a love/hate, co-operative/competitive relationship between the USA and Guyana. The PNC regime is once again engaged in a pre-Congress skirmish with US imperialism.

Just before its last Congress in August 1981, the PNC attacked the United States, and particularly the US Ambassador in Guyana, for blocking a \$60 million IDB loan for the agricultural sector. Soon after, the loan was approved.

Once again, the posturing is taking place to convince foreign Congress visitors of its "anti-imperialist, socialist" position.

The United States is attacked for not renewing a USAID US\$8 million loan for the Black Bush Polder rice scheme and a US\$15 million loan for rice modernisation, and for a likely veto at an IDB US\$52 million soft loan for the 2nd phase of Stage 1 of the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary drainage and irrigation scheme.

US imperialism is pressuring the PNC regime not because it is socialist and firmly anti-imperialist but because of its vacillation in foreign policies, and its hesitation to dismantle further the co-operative and productive state corporations, and to get it to move from state, bureaucratic and parasitic capitalism to free enterprise, dependent capitalism.

The United States is not destabilising the PNC regime. It is merely using the IMF and other financial means to pressurise the PNC to move further to the right, and place itself firmly in the imperialist camp. At the same time, it is building an alternative pro-capitalist, pro-imperialist political 'third force.'

The PNC has to shoulder the blame for not utilising the 2 USAID loans which had been approved several years ago. The regime is delinquent not only in deciding on the scope of these schemes, but also in accomplishment of other projects. This largely stems from administrative inefficiency due to racial and political discrimination, and the PNC's intention to maintain existing structures which facilitate a special type of capitalism, an emerging PNC bourgeoisie and corrupt deals.

The present regime of state, bureaucratic and parasitic capi- [as published] lls of the Guyanese society. Nor can a retreat to dependent, free enterprise capitalism. What is needed is a political solution: a National Patriotic Front Government based on democracy, anti-imperialism and socialist orientation.

In its Central Committee Report to the 21st Congress, the PPP set out measures to cope with the grave economic and social crisis. Now that the new IMF package will add crushing burdens on the people, with these measures and an action programme, a united struggle must be mounted for wages, food, jobs and land. The PNC regime must be clearly told: provide them or get out.

CSO: 3298/922

RALLY WITH HEMISPHERE GUESTS CONDEMNS 'U.S. IMPERIALISM'

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Aug 83 pp 4-5

[Text]

THE present policy of United States imperialism in Latin America and the Caribbean, with its features of military, economic and other forms of aggression, was Tuesday condemned by several representatives of revolutionary governments and organisations in the region.

The representatives are now in Guyana attending the Fifth Biennial Congress of the Ruling People's National Congress.

During a solidarity rally held at Bishop's High School, delegates from Cuba, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Nicaragua and Suriname denounced imperialism in this hemisphere, which, they contended, is aimed at dominating the people through the ideology of neo-colonialism.

Among the speakers, were Emilio Zarreymayan Carillo from El Salvador, Rogelio Oliva Ramirez from Cuba, George Louison from Grenada, Halim Majeed from Guyana, Ivan Graaenogst of Suriname and Marco Antonio from Nicaragua. The delegates expressed their solidarity with the

peoples of the region in their quest for freedom and self-determination.

They also said that the rally, organised by the Guyana Committee for Solidarity and Peace, is of great importance at the present time when the United States is increasing its military presence in the region.

According to Cde Ramirez, more than 30 000 Salvadorans were massacred since 1932, as a result of the United States militaristic policy in the region.

He said, however, that the peace-loving people of his country are fighting a determined battle against the brutal system in order to free themselves from US domination.

And in his presentation, Grenadian-born George Louison declared that imperialism has become even more aggressive within recent times, and has been trying to reverse the gains of the people of Latin America and the Caribbean.

He referred to Grenada, which he said, has been facing a number of destabilisation campaigns since the triumph of the New Jewel Movement and the success of the Grenadian revolution.

Despite these efforts, the people of the area have been successful in their attempts to fight back, he added.

The Nicaraguan delegate similarly reminded the audience of the struggle which the Nicaraguan people endured during the Somoza dictatorship, and present attempts by the United States to subvert the Sandinista Government.

The official expressed confidence that the United States would fail, as it did in Vietnam, when it attempted to reverse the revolutionary process.

And Guyanese Halim Majeed in his presentation, said that the United States policy in the area is potentially dangerous.

He noted that the stance of the Reagan

Administration is reminiscent of the doctrine of manifest destiny propounded by John Quincy Adams, the Monroe Doctrine of 1823 and the Truman Doctrine with regard to the curtailment of communism.

The Surinamese representative also joined in expressing his country's solidarity with other peoples of the region who are struggling against foreign domination.

He said history has proven that the minds of the people are unconquerable.

The speakers called for the Caribbean and Latin America to be declared a Zone of Peace, and said that they support the Contadora Group for its peace initiatives.

(GNA)

CSO: 3298/921

OPPOSITION BLASTS PNC PRECONGRESS MANEUVERS

MIRROR Charges

Georgetown MIRROR in English 14 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial: "PNC Pre-Congress Antics"]

[Text]

THE Guyanese people have been subjected, over the last two weeks, to a barrage of propaganda from the government-controlled press and radio about threats from the USA in the form of cancellation and blocking of loans. There appears to be a carefully orchestrated campaign designed to impress guests to the 5th Biennial Congress of the PNC which opens today at Sophia. The objective is to give the appearance that the PNC concubine has turned around to fight its imperialist master. We saw it happen before the last PNC Congress when we were told that the US vetoed a \$20 million loan. Soon after Congress it was signed.

THE scenario began in late July and is reaching its crescendo this week, just as the Congress opens. We read such lurid headlines as "US Steps up Economic Aggression Against Guyana"; "US Cancels Another Loan"; "US Openly Opposes IDB Loan for MMA"; "More US Economic Aggression"; "US Cancels Another \$23.4 million Loan to Guyana;" "Top Economic Planner Refused Entry Visa". etc.

SOME time before this campaign opened, leading PNC members publicly attacked the IMF for proposing harsh conditions for loans to Guyana. The public was given the impression that the PNC regime would vigorously oppose the IMF. But, of course, with all the experience Guyanese have undergone in recent times, it is generally expected that the IMF agreement will be signed (if it has not been done already) and soon after the PNC Congress, we will hear more about it, as well as the various problems it is having with US loans. It seems pretty certain that despite all the breast beating, the PNC regime will end up devaluing the currency. It is predicted that the rate of exchange will soon move from US\$1 to G\$3, as it is now, to US\$1 to G\$5. That, without doubt, would throw the working people into deeper poverty and the economy into greater disorder.

WE understand that an examination of the various US loans with which the Guyana government claims it is having problems, reveal a picture of neglect, inability to plan, procrastination and waste by the Guyana Government. For example, in connection with the Black Bush Powder loan of US\$7.5 million the money was not even spent, although the agreement was signed since December 1978. This was because the government failed to provide a programme of implementation. In the case of the IDB loan for the Mahaica-Maitumony-Albury Scheme, the \$87 million allocated for the whole of stage 1, because of cost over-runs the whole scope of the first phase was reduced. What the Guyana Government is now seeking is money (US\$40m) for those elements which were dropped from the original Phase 1 of the project when the original allocation ran out. But it cannot give full accounts of the expenditure of Phase 1 and therein lies the problem.

IT turns out that in most instances, blame rests with the incompetence, mismanagement, lack of planning and corruption of the PNC regime. We are not condoning the US for "deobligating" the loans, but at the same time, it is ridiculous as well as false for the PNC regime to mask its own serious errors and shortcomings in respect to these loans and try to assume a new role of fighting its North American sponsors. Guyanese, having gone through, time and again, all the antics of the PNC in trying to cloak its stooge image, easily recognise all the symptoms of the pre-Congress fever.

IT is of interest, too, to examine its claim that the US refused a visa to one of its senior state planners, in the face of hundreds leaving for the USA weekly, obviously armed with visas. In this case, the officer applied for a visa late July 29th (a Friday) and was told to return for it on the following Tuesday. Chronicle of the 30th July reported that he was refused an entry visa. However, no doubt due to the publicity, the official was granted an emergency visa on the same day (July 30), but then the trip was cancelled! So we see through the fire and smoke that there wasn't much of an injustice. Think of all the Guyanese who don't get their visas for weeks, or months!

THE post-PNC Congress period will show more clearly which direction the PNC will move in respect of US loans and the IMF Agreement. If the PNC was a representative government, had credibility and the backing of the people, it would not have to indulge in these ridiculous antics. A representative government that speaks for the people would reject the IMF and not enter into any agreement detrimental to the welfare of the Guyanese people. We say 'No' to the IMF!

Call for PNC Resignation

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 14 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial by Ron Pieters, S.J.: "Message to Congress"]

[Text] What can we say to the self-appointed paramount PNC as it gathers for its Fifth Biennial Congress?

It would be nice if we could say: Full speed ahead! We wish you well! On to greater things! But if we did this we would be guilty of insincerity and hypocrisy.

The best we can do is to advise the leaders of the party that, as they go apart to the relative quiet of Sophia, they make an honest and dispassionate appraisal of their record over their almost twenty years in office.

Such an appraisal can lead to only one decision--the one taken by most right-thinking Guyanese a long time ago--for the PNC to admit its failure and, summoning what decency and statesmanship it has left, resign as a government, paving the way for the formation of a national government of reconstruction, to be followed by free and fair elections.

This is our advice to congress.

Sloganeering has been a key feature of PNC congresses. Recent slogans have been: 'Towards the Socialist Revolution', 'Economic Liberation Through Socialism', 'Towards the People's Victory', 'Organise for Production and Defence' and for this congress, 'Will to Survive.'

But these slogans have been little more than lip service to the noble ideals they expressed.

The Socialism promised by the PNC has remained in the realm of fantasy. The dwindling of the stagnant economy has forced the government into the hands of the IMF.

Any people's victory will be against the PNC, and, if the masses do survive, it will be despite the harsh policies of this repressive regime and its few supporters.

As this Fifth Biennial Congress opens, the people's circumstances and their future have never seemed more bleak and foreboding.

Retrenchment has left many jobless. Old age pensioners are being denied their already inadequate assistance.

A proper education is becoming more and more difficult to acquire. Even Guyana scholars are frustrated in their efforts to pursue their studies because of a lack of foreign exchange, while outsized government delegations use it up on their endless jaunts abroad.

Essential foods and medical supplies are desperately short. Children are the hardest hit.

Press and political freedom are being strangled. Air, land and sea transportation are grossly inadequate. All is at sixes and sevens. The PNC Government has lost its *raison d'etre*.

The most we have had from previous congresses are promises. This one will be no different, for the PNC's bankruptcy is all-pervading.

The IMF, the USA, the weather, the laziness of the people, Venezuela, international crises and others have been blamed in their turn for Guyana's miseries.

The truth, however, is patently clear to all but those who are too blind to see. The responsibilities for our miseries must be placed at the door of those gathered at Sophia, who, either by their silence or their consent have permitted the country to decay over the years.

Never before in our nation's short history, with the possible exception of Jonestown, have so many miseries been inflicted on so many people by so few--the PNC.

PNC's 'Phony' Attacks on U.S.

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 14 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] The ruling Party has recently made a great show of attacking the United States just before the holding of its 5th Biennial Congress this weekend.

Correspondents have pointed out that similar attacks were made before the previous Biennial Congress in 1981. At that time the Party claimed that a \$20m IDB loan had been blocked by the US and had termed the reasons put forward for doing so 'poppy cock' and 'hogwash'.

After the Congress the loan was granted.

The recent attacks followed a local announcement that the US intended to block Guyana's application for an IDB loan of \$156m for the second phase of the first part of the MMA project.

A Washington spokesman was later reported to have denied this.

More attacks came after USAID had announced the cancellation 'for technical and economic consideration' of two loans of \$7.5m and \$15m respectively for the Black Bush drainage and irrigation project and the Rice Modernisation project.

The reasons for the cancellation have been dismissed by officials as "arrant and spurious nonsense".

The US was also attacked for allegedly refusing a visa to a State Planning Secretariat official to travel to the US. This action was labelled "stupid and contemptible" and, together with the alleged threat to block a loan and the cancelling of two others, was deemed to be evidence of 'economic aggression' being perpetrated against the present regime to get it to change course.

The cancelled USAID loans had however already been held up months before. Work on the Black Bush project had come to a halt in the latter part of 1982, as funds had been running out.

The cost of the project, calculated in 1978 to be \$43m, had been grossly underestimated.

Added to this, the costs had greatly escalated because of inflation.

The project, moreover, was a joint one with other agencies. USAID was to have put in \$8.9m, \$7.5m as a loan and \$1.4m as a grant.

IFAD and World Bank were to have lent \$10m each and Guyana was to have contributed \$5.5m.

By the latter half of 1982, it had become clear that \$43m could complete only a part of the project. IFAD cancelled its \$10m commitment and this affected the other lenders.

The Rice Modernisation project was similarly affected by inadequate costing and inflation and the project had to be drastically cut down.

Both projects were in the course of being reformulated when they were cancelled.

USAID claimed that Guyana owed \$4m on repayment of loans it had received and interest, and Guyana had been allowed to be in default of these payments since March 1981.

USAID also claimed that money was now needed for Peru which had recently suffered a national disaster.

The US had long been dissatisfied with the inefficient manner in which the rice industry was being managed and had said so.

It was not satisfied that the changes the administration had undertaken to make in the rice industry as set out in its Action Programme submitted to the World Bank in May 1982, were being implemented and was reluctant to put more money into the industry.

By attacking the US, the ruling party, no doubt, will pave the way for the party's acceptance of the IMF terms, which will certainly place even greater hardships on the Guyanese people.

After it has accepted the terms, the loans will, no doubt, once again flow in.

Attack on Antiworker Measures

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 15 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Text] Yesterday the illegal PNC rulers launched their fifth Biennial Congress at Sophia with what sounded like a blaze of glitter. All Guyanese know how the famous Congress delegations, Congress crowd and rallies are put together, to say nothing of the forced donations seized from the working people.

OPEN WORD notes also that the so-called disciplined forces were again part of the PNC Congress. They were on hand with a guard of honour to greet Mr Burnham in his capacity of Leader of the PNC.

Boasting of the PNC's 1980 election seizure, which he called a victory, Party Chairman Mr Cammie Ramsaroop invited the opposition parties to use the facilities and openness available to them in the local government system. Local government, he said, is almost self-governing. This invitation comes at a time when the WPA has just been denied permission to hold public meetings, six prohibitions in just one month, and when the Minister of Home Affairs has refused to use his powers under the Public Order Act to give directions to the Commissioner of Police.

Some 70 persons are presently before the courts facing charges of unlawful procession and picketing (now being called "disorderly behaviour") which they undertook to express opposition to the ban on wheat flour. Some were arrested on workers' marches in the sugar belt on the West Coast and others in East Coast community marches protesting hunger. One of the pickets against the food situation was organised by the PPP and the others by the WPA. Yet in the face of these arrests the Commissioner of Police has refused applications by the WPA to hold public processions under the Public Order Act in Georgetown and on the East Coast Demerara.

Mr Ramsaroop talked about proletarian internationalism, but the PNC refuses to permit the workers of Guyana to organise.

Mr Ramsaroop talked about socialist transformation, but did not say that in May 1982 his party drew up an Action Programme undertaking to contract out to multinationals almost every problem in the public sector.

Mr Ramsaroop pledged that the PNC would correct itself and called on party officials to be considerate, but the expected applause was not heard on the live broadcast. His moral appeals were not taken seriously at all, because, despite their grandstanding year after year, all know where the PNC stands on moral questions. As he himself said, "Talk is cheap".

OPEN WORD welcomes to our country, delegations from places where struggle against dictatorship is going on, such as the FMLN from El Salvador. We welcome the delegations from countries like Grenada, Suriname and Nicaragua which are frontally threatened by the USA administration, not by horse play over loans.

OPEN WORD hopes that these delegations will be allowed to meet other organisations interested in their struggles and permitted to address the Guyanese people on the reality of the assaults of Reaganism on their safety and well being.

It is our wish also that the government of Guyana will, unlike last March/April actively denounce aggression and threatened aggression against countries in the region when they are in need of solidarity and not play for time to see how the wind is blowing.

CSO: 3298/922

FOREIGN ENVOYS PRESENT CREDENTIALS, COMMENT ON RELATIONS

Ambassador From Guinea

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

AMBASSADOR of the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea His Excellency Mamadouba Bangoura, said yesterday morning that he would "spare no effort to act in the interest of the consolidation and strengthening of the ties that exist" between the peoples and governments of Guyana and Guinea.

The Ambassador was at the time presenting his Letters of Credence to Vice-President Steve Naraine at State House.

He also spoke of his country's commitment — one

shared with the government and people of Guyana — towards ensuring national independence "within the framework of general harmonious development conforming to the basic principles of international co-operation and to the Charter of Non-Alignment".

In his reply to the Ambassador, Vice-President Steve Naraine acknowledged the two countries' interest in "promoting international peace and co-operation" and commended the efforts of the people and President of Guinea to preserve national independence within this context.

Vietnamese Envoy

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 12 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

AMBASSADOR of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, His Excellency Hoang Luong yesterday observed that the difficulties which beset the task of national reconstruction in Guyana are shared by many countries of the "Third World" after gaining their political independence.

The Ambassador was presenting his Letters of Credence to Vice President Steve Naraine at State House yesterday morning.

He said that despite the great distance which separated the two countries and the differences in history, language and culture, the peoples "have been

united by links of solidarity and mutual support in the common struggle for peace, independence, national sovereignty and social progress."

In his reply to the Ambassador, Vice-President Naraine expressed this country's solidarity with the efforts for national reconstruction being pursued by the Vietnamese people.

He also reaffirmed Guyana's commitment to work for the strengthening of relations and consolidation of efforts "to create a just global society."

Argentine Ambassador

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 13 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

IN presenting his Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Argentina, His Excellency, Guillermo Tomistocles Conti expressed great satisfaction at being designated to serve in this capacity in Guyana.

Addressing Vice-President Steve Naraine at the official ceremony yesterday morning at State House, the Argentine Ambassador deemed Guyana "... a country which has unequivocally demonstrated, on more than one occasion, its capability to defend its identity as a Nation, with tenacious and proud patriotism".

He pledged to "use all available resources to bring his Mission to a happy conclusion".

In his reply to the Ambassador, Vice-President Naraine noted that physical separation and historical and cultural differences have not been impediments to collaboration and co-operation.

He assured the Ambassador of the continued "support and co-operation of the Government and people of Guyana."

Ambassador From Nicaragua

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

NICARAGUA'S first ambassador to Guyana, JAVIER CHAMORRO, will today present his credentials to Vice-President, Sochi Infrastructure, Steve Naraine, at a simple ceremony at State House.

The Nicaraguan envoy, who is also his country's permanent representative to the United Nations, will be based in New York.

Guyana and Nicaragua established diplomatic relations in November 1981. Guyana's ambassador to that country is Cde. Noel Sinclair.

Cde. Sinclair, who is also Guyana's representative to the United Nations presented his credentials in July to Dr. Rafael Cordova Rivera, member of the Junta of the Nicaraguan government.

Ambassador Chamorro has served as his country's ambassador to Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic. He was also the representative of the Sandinista Front for National Liberation in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Puerto Rico during 1978-79. -- (GNA).

CSO: 3298/925

FOOD ISSUES, U.S. ACTION ON LOAN REMAIN IN SPOTLIGHT

PNC Exploitation of Food Crisis

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Text] THE FOOD CRISIS in Guyana, which has grown steadily worse over the last year, has now reached a crucial stage.

So great is the need for basic items, such as flour, split peas, cooking oil and cheese, that these items continue to come into the country to be sold at exorbitant prices on the parallel market in spite of harsh penalties inflicted on some of the hucksters.

For six weeks bauxite workers struck to get their demands for more food and a fairer distribution of scarce items acknowledged by the authorities.

Even now, at the conference table they are striving to make the point that workers cannot produce without food. The importation of basic food, they say, is a question of top priority.

Sugar workers have joined their voices in demanding a better supply and distribution of food.

The campaign for Food and Jobs, launched by the CCWU, the VLD, WAT and the WPA has collected 45,000 signatures, demanding, among other things, the immediate importation of milk, flour and split peas.

The Ruling Party doggedly refuses to acknowledge the gravity of the situation. To do so would be to admit failure, and any government that does not succeed in providing its people with adequate quantities of nourishing food has

thereby lost its primary reason for remaining in office.

The PNC, therefore, denies that people are starving and tells them to be content with what they produce.

It is now making frantic efforts to shift the blame for its failure on to the United States, waving a puny fist at that country for its so-called 'economic aggression.'

At the same time, the Party seeks to tighten its control of food distribution in a system described by an official of the Guyana Consumers Association as perhaps the most discriminatory in the world.

Last year, the Government let it be known that it would not permit flour to be imported by the Guyana Council of Churches, even as gifts, to be distributed by the Churches.

This year, it has expressed willingness to permit the importation of a large quantity of milk and cheese, offered by the Caribbean Churches. The gift was meant for pregnant and nursing mothers, children and elderly people.

The Government, however, placed a condition that the distribution be under its control.

The reason for this condition, which goes against the donors' wishes, is clear. Food can be a weapon. This is what a top official was reported in last week's Sunday Chronicle to have said.

This was so, he said, because it could be used to control and manipulate nations.

The official was referring to the United States, which, he said, "uses food as a weapon to be wielded ruthlessly in achieving foreign policy objectives."

The argument certainly applies to the ruling party in Guyana. So concerned is it with keeping the people in a state of dependency, that it is prepared to block their efforts to obtain emergency supplies from abroad.

The time has come for action. Religious and other concerned people cannot stand by and see the nation held to ransom, and do nothing.

Their representatives who were due to meet in the National Crisis Council on Fri. Aug. 5, should redouble their efforts to agree on a Government of National Unity and Reconstruction.

The ruling Party should in all honesty admit that it has failed and step aside to pave the way for such a government.

Lagging Barter Production

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 7 Aug 83 p 2

[Excerpt]

WITH FOREIGN credit dried up, Guyana has turned to barter in order to get the goods it needs, but production of the main products used for barter continues to lag.

The government rice mills are no longer able to produce the quality of rice needed for the export market, because of the shortage of spare parts for the machinery. About US\$2.5 million is needed in parts.

As a result, Guyana is not meeting its commitments to Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados for bulk rice and packaged rice.

The quality of rice being delivered to the markets is very poor and the blame is wrongly being put on the private millers.

The Rice Board is losing about \$1.5 million a month.

The scrapping of the Rice Board would put an end to the corruption and graft, still widespread in the industry. The producers will still need fertilisers, tractors and other inputs. The government mills will still need spare parts.

Bauxite production has also suffered.

According to a World Bank team that visited Guyana early last year, the industry has been operating well below capacity.

Assurances to Rice Farmers

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 7 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

THE Guyana Government has taken contingency measures to minimise any adverse effect the cancellation of \$67.5 million in loans to the rice industry from the United States Government, will have on local rice production.

These measures include sealing of leaking silos, rebuilding of the export centre, rebuilding of drying floors and bonds, putting greater emphasis on rice research, and setting-up of Regional Rice Boards to ensure more effective and efficient use of resources.

This assurance to farmers came yesterday morning in the light of the recent cancellation and threatened veto by the US, of loans aimed at greatly assisting this nation's agricultural development, particularly rice.

Vice-President, Production, Cde Hamilton Green, was at the time holding a press conference at the Guyana Film Centre. He commented on "the rapid growth of the smuggling of rice produced in Guyana", the United States of

America threat to veto a \$156 million loan for the Mahaicony Mahaica Abary drainage and irrigation project, and the cancellation of loans by the same Government to the rice industry.

The Vice-President stated it has been established beyond doubt that rice was being illegally exported to CARICOM countries and across the borders. He noted that this practice has a disadvantage to the local rice industry, which nets an average \$90 million in foreign exchange annually, since it is directly related to the uneven supply of paddy for the mills, and the likewise uneven supply of rice for the local market.

He said that recently \$1.7 million worth of rice was smuggled out of the country, and mentioned that these smugglers, whom he referred to as 'businessmen prostituting Guyana's situation' and who pretended to be agents of the Guyana Government, were illegally mixing the

rice thereby reducing the quality and damaging this country's image.

He explained that taking legal action was difficult because many times when these smuggling vessels are caught they were beyond the borders. However, he said that legal proceedings are now being taken against the m.v. 'Gemali' which was caught with 400 bags of rice bound for Trinidad and Tobago.

Cde Green said that \$15 million of the cancelled \$67.5 million for the rice industry, which was to come in two loans, had already been spent on U.S. consultancy, equipment, and services. One loan was for the Black Bush Polder Small Farm Development Project, aimed at increasing rice yields and production, and the other was for Phase Two of the Rice Modernisation Project.

He explained that this money was to be channelled through USAID which had

already financed Phase One of the Rice Modernisation Project, and mentioned problems experienced during Phase One because of incompetent consultants supplied by the US. One of these problems is the leaking silos.

The Vice-President said that the "analysis by the I.D.B., and Guyanese technicians has shown that the Abary Drainage and Irrigation Project is decidedly feasible in economic terms and unless this project is completed, not only will the overall project be truncated, but the farmers will be unable to derive the full benefit from the works already done in the area."

He however assured that the Government of Guyana is taking all steps necessary to ensure that this project will be funded by the bank.

"Farmers need to bear in mind that this aggression is, in effect, directed against their desire and right to produce and develop their industry here in Guyana. They must speak out against this naked aggression," the Vice-President stated.

Green on Food Security

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Aug 83 p 1

[Excerpts]

THE Guyana Government and the management of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will soon hold discussions on the second phase of the Food Crop Programme in an effort to continue their assistance to farmers in Guyana.

... This assurance was given to the farmers Tuesday by Government and IDB officials in the wake of the United States Government cancellation of a \$47.5 million loan to Guyana's rice industry and its threatened veto of a loan of \$150. (G) million to the MMA Water Control Scheme, which aimed at developing the country's agricultural sector.

Speaking at the official opening of the Marketing Centres at Charity and Supenaam, Vice-President, Production, Hamilton Green said the Guyana Government had identified food security as its means of independence and will make every effort to ensure that farmers are given the best facilities to produce crops of the highest quality for local consumption and the export market.

Cde Green disclosed that operations of the

Guyana Marketing Corporation (GMC) will be phased-out shortly and exhorted Essequibians to adopt a change of values to assist in the country's development.

Burnham Plans for MIA Project

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 18 Aug 83 pp 1, 2

[Text]

President Forbes Burnham will be meeting with his political colleagues and professional advisers immediately after the current PNC Congress to "devise ways and means of our completing the second phase of the first stage of the MMA Project on our own."

Revealing this yesterday afternoon, Cde. Burnham said that performing in this manner is what is meant by survival and independence, not "begging on bended knees."

The President was then delivering the feature address at the commissioning ceremony for the Stage One of the first phase of Mahaica / Mahaleny / - Abary drainage and irrigation project at Onverwagt.

Addressing a gathering of residents, engineers, foreign diplomats, and delegates to the Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress, he epitomised the feelings of the nation, "We today feel as if we are living in a dream that all the others have dreamt of".

He congratulated all persons involved in the project, and said that these congratulations did not come as a matter of formality. He said that the workers did a very good job of which he was proud, and expressed his pleasure that Guyanese can do hard work then look back at it with pride.

The nation's leader asked the gathering to

what end was the project done? He said that for people to merely congratulate themselves on the size of the project was missing the point and warned that this project was but the beginning.

Cde. Burnham said that distribution of land in the scheme will be done as spelled out in the national constitution. Here reference was made to the clause in the constitution saying that land will go to the tiller.

Phase Two works on the MMA scheme involved controlling the waters of the Mahaleny River and is estimated to cost \$52.69 US million, with the Inter-American Development Bank providing \$46 US million of that amount and Guyana furnishing the rest.

The President noted that while he spoke, a decision on whether the loan is granted was being made at the Bank by vote, and unless a "miracle of a millennium" took place, that loan would be vetoed. He reminded all present that there were no fairy godmothers around anymore.

He said that Guyanese have to find the means out of this country's resources to complete the project.

"I can think of no finer hope, no greater ambition at this point in time." He remarked. Then added that after completing Phase Two the nation will not have to say "thank you sir, ... then we shall be masters of our own home."

Milk Supply Problem

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 14 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

THE MILK SITUATION in the country has now become critical. The supply of full cream powdered milk has run out and for most of last week the Kingston Milk Plant was out of operation.

No other shipment of the powdered milk is expected before the latter part of Sept, when two months supply (28,000 ctns) may come from Canada, provided the foreign exchange is made available.

In the meantime, efforts are being made to obtain an emergency shipment of 10,000 ctns from Trinidad within a week or two.

Powdered milk has been in acute short supply over the past six months. Available supplies have been distributed mainly to institutions and to employees in the public sector.

The Milk Plant is ancient and though it was capable of producing 8,000 gals a day, in its present state it can only process about 3,000 gals a day.

The city is said to need 10,000 gals a day and the country as a whole 25,000 gals a day.

As a result of the shortage, milk is reported to be sold on the parallel market for as much as \$90 a tin.

CSO: 3298/923

STATE SUGAR COMPANY REGISTERS WORST YEAR EVER

FI.072230 Bridgetown CANA in English 2126 GMT 7 Sep 83

[Report by Edwin Ali]

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, 7 Sep (CANA)--Poor world sugar prices, the ever-weakening pound sterling, heavily subsidised local sugar sales and low first crop production combined to make 1982 the most difficult in the 7-year history of the state-run Guyana Sugar Corporation (Guysuco), according to Chairman Harold Davis.

In the corporation's 1982 report, just tabled in the National Assembly (Parliament), Davis said total production was 287,725 long tons of sugar or 4.3 percent lower than the previous year, while group sales totalled \$275.9 million (1 Guy dollar; 33 cents U.S.) or \$40.8 million less than 1981. The net deficit was \$93.1 million compared with 82.3 million in 1981.

"The results of 1982 can therefore be described as sad and disappointing," Davis said. He added: "Gross foreign exchange earnings for the year was \$266.8 million compared with \$293.6 million in 1981."

The subsidy on local sugar sales amounted to \$32.2 million compared with \$33.7 million in 1981--representing 34.6 percent of the operating deficit.

"To put it mildly," the Guysuco chairman said, "it was a depressing year. A year in which the world sugar and molasses prices declined to shocking levels: A year which saw the further contraction of the U.S. market (and sales to Caricom (the Caribbean Community and Common Market) dwindled to a negligible 125 [figure as received] tons, no doubt due to the low world prices prevailed."

He said that capital expenditure continued to be a major problem in the industry--with inadequate capital inputs and spare parts shortages being responsible for the poor performances of Guysuco's 10 factories.

"Of a total need of \$67.7 million, only \$17.2 million was provided for in the national budget for 1982," Davis said. Actual expenditure at the end of the year amounted to \$18.1 million.

Said the Guysuco boss: "This inability of the corporation to acquire capital assets of the order urgently required will seriously affect its production potential in the years to come."

He added that factory managers, their staff and members of the operation departments rose to the occasion, but their efforts were thwarted by the shortage of spare parts and the low level of capital inputs brought on by the foreign exchange problems which faced the nation.

Davis described the marketing of the sugar as "shocking," noting that even the so-called "bread and butter" European Economic Community (EEC) market had its problems.

"I refer here to the negative MCA's (Monetary Compensation Amounts) and the ven declining value of the pound sterling vis-a-vis the U.S. dollar which directly affected the corporation's revenue," he said.

However, he noted that the corporation was able to increase its sales on the Canadian market by some 14,000 tons at prices which were at a premium over the world market prices obtaining at the time.

Davis said Guysuco was particularly worried about the small annual quota granted Guyana by the U.S.

"We enjoy GSP (Guaranteed Sugar Prices) for our sugar and this market is therefore particularly attractive to us," he said. "In fact, in 1982, it was our best market from the point of view of prices. We fear that the continued growth of sweeteners may cause this market to contract even further."

CSO: 3298/1303

SUGAR, OTHER WORKERS IN LINE FOR PAY INCENTIVES

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 7 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

IN SPITE of the continuing attempts to foment political strikes in the sugar industry and reduce production there, sugar workers performed so well last year that they have earned for themselves tax-free incentive payments.

The Central Incentives Committee of the State Planning Secretariat has praised the workers of Demerara Sugar Terminals — the sugar workers — and also those of Guyana National Shipping Corporation.

The excellence of the performance by the sugar workers is reflected in the earnings of Demerara Sugar Terminals in 1982.

The net income (after tax) amounted to \$315,000 and the financial obligations were \$270,000.

The excellence of performance by workers of Demerara Sugar Terminals indicates what all workers in the productive sector can achieve by commitment and sustained effort. In

addition to sugar workers, workers of Guyana Stores Limited will receive about \$328,000 in incentive payments based on their performance in 1982.

But the sum total of government's honouring its obligations to workers is not finished and to incentive payments made to sugar and G.S.L. workers there has to be added the back pay given to teachers in addition to increments in their salaries.

A nation in the throes of a crisis which has overspilled from abroad and economic pressures from a world power, continues to show its concern for the people and confidently expects that the people will continue to support their government.

CSO: 3298/924

BRIEFS

LIBERATOR PARTY MESSAGE--The Liberator Party, through its Chairman Dr. Makepeace Richmond, has written a letter to the Guyana Council of Churches, expressing solidarity with it. "We are disgusted at the arrests of Rev. Dale Bisnauth and Fr. Malcolm Rodrigues and at the crude disrespect shown to Bishop Randolph George", the letter reads. "Those sworn to uphold the law have become the chief law-breakers. Yet, we have no doubt that, terrible as their actions look today, in history they will seem like no more than the panicky pin-pricks of a tottering tyranny. We salute your efforts to inspire our people to greatness, to bring unity to them, to seek to feed the poorest, to bring medicines to the sick, to help mend our shattered education. The oppressors will continue to hinder and seek to frustrate these efforts but, together, we shall overcome". [Text] [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 14 Aug 83 p 3]

GOLD, DIAMOND PRODUCTION--In spite of efforts to effectively patrol the country's mining districts, declared gold output continues to decline. At the same time however, declared output of diamonds show a slight increase. According to figures released by the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, 20.3 kilograms of gold valued at three quarter million (G) dollars were declared for the second quarter of this year. This declaration brings the total for the first six months of 1983 to 36.5 kilograms of gold valued at \$1.2 million. This is a dramatic decline in output when it is compared to the same period last year which saw 183.3 kilograms of gold valued at \$5.1 million being declared and during the second quarter last year 93.1 kilograms of gold valued at \$2.5 million were declared. On the other hand, declared diamond output for the second quarter of this year showed some improvement over that of the corresponding period last year. Declared output for the months of April, May and June 1983 was 3,565 metric carats valued at \$520,800 compared to 2,265 metric carats valued at \$330,900 declared during the same period in 1982. Declared diamond output for the first six months of this year showed an increase of 1,724 metric carats valued at \$251,850 over the previous year's performance. Some 5,746 metric carats of diamonds valued at \$839,250 were declared during the first six months of this year, compared to 4,021 metric carats valued at \$582,400 declared during the first six months of last year. (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 7 Aug 83 p 8]

MESSAGE TO ECUADOR--PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham has sent sincere congratulations to President Osvaldo Hurtado Larrea of Ecuador on the occasion of that country's National Day yesterday. In his congratulatory message to the Ecuadorean leader, President Burnham said the spirit of cooperation between Guyana and Ecuador at various fora will serve to strengthen the friendly relations and goodwill existing between the two countries. President Burnham's message reads: "On the occasion of the celebration of Liberation Day it is with great pleasure that I extend, on behalf of the government and people of Guyana and on my own behalf, sincere congratulations to you, the government and people of Ecuador. "Our mutual desire to enhance the political, social and economic well-being of our peoples and mankind at large, serves to motivate us to join forces at various fora to devise ways and means to overcome the problems which thwart the development of our nations. "This spirit of cooperation, I am sure, will further serve to strengthen the friendly relations and goodwill that exist between our two countries. "May I take this opportunity to extend my sincere best wishes for your good health and for the progress of your people and country." (GNA) [Text] [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 11 Aug 83 p 1]

SUGAR PRODUCTION--In spite of weather constraints, the late start of some factories, and mechanical problems on the locations, nine of Guysuco's 10 factories now grinding, last week produced 6 180 tons of sugar, to up the total for the Second Crop to 17 280 tons. Uitvlugt and Leonora joined the seven other units, while Rose Hall which was placed on the reporting week's schedule, was expected to complete a massive maintenance programme at the weekend, and should begin grinding early this week. With Rose Hall not producing, last week's figure therefore represents 70 per cent of the estimates for the nine other factories. Leonora which started last week, lost 24 hours' production through mechanical problems. During the week the industry passed the 100 000-ton mark and production for the year, at the end of the reporting week, was 103 375 tons. Skeldon, making its estimate of 940 tons, was the only estate to be placed on the Production Honours Roll. Creditable performances came from Albion which produced 1 545 tons, as well as from Diamond and Enmore. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 14 Aug 83 p 3]

CSO: 3298/925

ECONOMY IN SPOTLIGHT AS PROBLEM AREAS SURFACE

Exporters' Proposals

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

A four-point plan for dealing with problems affecting local exporters has been put to the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Edward Seaga, in the light of difficulties created for them by the formalisation of the parallel exchange market.

Requesting that consideration be given to "alleviating the plight" of the exporters, the Jamaica Shippers Council has submitted the following alternative proposals to the Prime Minister:

- that authorisation be given for freight to hard-currency markets be allowed at the official rate of exchange for non EDF (Export Development Fund) users,
- alternatively, that exporters to hard-currency markets be authorised to pay for freight in hard currency out of gross earnings, immediately these funds arrive in Jamaica
- alternatively, that shippers be allowed to build in a 'less-freight' item in invoicing overseas clients, thereby enabling payment at the net of freight charges
- alternatively, that exports to hard-currency markets by exporters who do not use the Export Development

fund, be freight-paid at the parallel market rate with full re-imbursement of proceeds at the parallel market rate.

These recommendations by the Council arose out of a recent meeting, specially convened at the request of a number of companies affiliated with the Council. At this meeting several complaints were made

These complaints were of "severe difficulties" being experienced as a result of the recently implemented arrangements whereby exporters of hard-currency markets are required to pay all freight and other related charges at the parallel market rate but are reimbursed out of their foreign-exchange earnings at 50% parallel market rate and 50% official rate.

The view was expressed at the meeting that some of the existing procedures "are patently counter-productive" and it was also said that exporters did not see how they could last very long in business under the present circumstances.

In its letter to Mr. Seaga, the council stated that the fears expressed by the companies at the meeting, as well as by others who have telephoned and written to the Council, were the result of "deep concerns for the welfare of their businesses and of their employees and for the future prospects of viable export trading."

Decline in Bauxite Production

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 19 Aug 83 p 12

[Excerpt]

Kingston, August 11:

Despite a nine per cent increase in alumina shipments, Jamaica's bauxite production and exports declined significantly in the first half of this year compared with the first half of 1982.

Alumina exports stood at 959,000 metric tonnes at the end of June as against 881,000 tonnes at the same point last year but total bauxite disposed of was 3.26 million tonnes compared with 4.5 million tonnes, drop of 28 per cent, the Jamaica Bauxite Institute stated.

Exports of bauxite ore rose sharply from 330,400 tonnes in the first quarter to 504,200 tonnes in the second but the total for the half year was still 61 per cent less than the 2.3 million tonnes shipped in first half '82.

Two immediate factors account for this year's halting start in bauxite exports. At the same time last year more than half of the U.S. government's stockpile purchase of 1.6 million tonnes had been delivered whereas this year's one million tonne US government purchase will be largely delivered in the second half, the JBI stated.

The second factor is that one of the two baux-

ite exporting companies has met its reduced ore requirements so far this year from its stockpile in the US and, consequently, has shipped little or no bauxite from Jamaica. However its levels of mining and shipping are now increasing and, added to the US government stockpile deliveries, bauxite output should recover somewhat in the rest of the year. Nevertheless total bauxite disposed of in 1983 is not expected to exceed 7.7 million tonnes as against 8.5 million in 1982. The third US government purchase, of one million tonnes, recently announced by Prime Minister Seaga, will be delivered in 1984.

Higher Aluminium Prices

The world aluminium industry meantime continues its steady if unspectacular recovery. A modest increase in demand coupled with the savage cuts in smelter output have gradually reduced swollen aluminium inventories to acceptable levels.

However, because of the stampede for short foreign exchange, many companies have extended their overdraft limit so as to be liquid and make foreign exchange purchases.

5. Because of the necessity to purchase foreign exchange whenever available, many firms are not deriving the benefits of the ninety-day credit arrangements. In fact, no facility exists at the banks for forward buying of foreign exchange to take advantage of the ninety-day credit benefits.

6. The spot market prices have become extremely volatile with a number of commercial banks offering rates of \$3.52 to \$3.60 to the US dollar. It has been predicted that the rate could well reach \$4 by the end of this month.

7. A number of government-owned export agencies are no longer lodging their overseas remittance to the Bank of Jamaica but privately to commercial banks at the parallel market rate. In some instances, these Government-owned export agencies have been selling to spot purchasers.

8. Small businessmen have been caught in the squeeze because of the foreign exchange situation as they do not have the liquidity levels to get a first choice in the foreign exchange scramble. This is resulting in many of them cutting back on production or going out of business.

9. Because of the protracted CARICOM impasse many companies which borrowed from the Export Development Fund used up these funds for what has become local consumption. This has resulted in a diversion of resources and a misuse of EDF funds.

10. The bauxite companies which use some US\$150 million for local purchases (separate from levy) are pressing for an immediate and substantial devaluation of the Jamaican dollar. The companies also want unification of the rates. One company is currently threatening to close one of its plants.

11. Information to the People's National Party is that the parallel market is not generating one-third of the amount of money projected by the government to come from this source.

It can therefore be readily seen from the foregoing the chaos which exists in the Jamaican economy where foreign exchange is concerned. It must also be noticed that with PETROJAM Ltd buying at the parallel market rate which is now over \$3, the price of petrol to the public must increase shortly as PETROJAM's assumption of \$2.76 for most petroleum products cannot hold. It is unrealistic for the government to speak about a fixed price for fuel in a situation where PETROJAM operates in the fluctuating parallel market.

It is clear that the Bank of Jamaica is playing a diminishing role with the government abdicating its responsibility to manage the country's foreign exchange resources. The productive sector is being seriously affected as businesses can do no forward planning as the rules change from day to day. The nation's priority interests are being jeopardised as petroleum purchases, capital goods and raw materials are competing with hair pins and frog's legs.

Already, further lay-offs have started in the manufacturing sector and this can only get worse. The bauxite companies will avoid local purchases whenever possible because of the number of rates, the result of this being that the Jamaican economy will lose. The impact on the cost of living will be horrendous with prices rising rapidly.

PNP Critique

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 14 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

The People's National Party has said that the price of petrol to the public is bound to be increased again as in its view what it says is Petrojam's assumption of a J\$2.76 rate per US dollar for most petroleum products cannot hold in the light of what the PNP says is a parallel rate now over J\$3 per US dollar.

In a statement issued by the Leader of the Opposition and PNP Leader, Mr. Michael Manley, on Thursday, the PNP said:

"The People's National Party is alarmed and extremely concerned at the continued deteriorating state of the Jamaican economy which is resulting in consumers facing more and more hardships and the productive sectors slowly grinding to a halt.

Since the introduction of the June austerity measures by the government, the Jamaican economy has taken a turn for the worse and has moved steadily downhill. Because of the placing of more and more items on the parallel market and the very acute shortage of foreign exchange, the Jamaican economy is now in danger of collapsing. This has come about because of a number of factors which include:

1. A directive from the Bank of Jamaica to Commercial banks that they reserve 50 percent of their uncommitted parallel market dollars for the Bank of Jamaica.
2. A directive to Commercial banks from the Bank of Jamaica that PETROJAM Limited, which needs US\$20 million per month to meet fuel payments, be given first choice where the intake of parallel market dollars is concerned.
3. Transnational companies have used the opportunity of the free for all parallel market system to settle significant amounts of debts owed to their head offices. This unstructured system has put a further drain on the country's foreign exchange resources. It must be pointed out that these transnational companies are operating in this manner because no ceiling has been set by the government.
4. Many overseas firms are believed to be in breach of the ratio of local borrowings to their shareholders retained earnings and foreign loans. (The Exchange Control Act Regulations require for example that if a company has a US\$5 million equity, they can only borrow 20 to 25 percent of its equity from the local banking system.)

The overseas firms which are believed to be in breach of the ratio of local borrowing to their equity have sought no permission from the Bank of Jamaica nor has the Central Bank given any go ahead to these firms to act in this way.

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Aug 83 p 13

[Text]

Right now the Fund was unable to function and meet commitments to commercial banks as it was holding the equivalent of U.S.\$40 million in soft currency at U.S.\$1 to \$2.25, but the Bank of Jamaica was unable to reconvert this to U.S. dollars except by entering the parallel market at a subsidy loss.

According to Mr. Thomas, the solution for the Fund in relation to CARICOM trade was for the Government to eliminate the CARICOM rate for imports and exports, and place all trade and raw material imports for CARICOM at the parallel rate. However, this rate must be pegged.

On the shift of some goods and services to the parallel rate of exchange in June in addition to those being so funded from January, Mr. Thomas said the total to be funded in this way would now be US\$528 million. He said he had attempted to indicate to the Government that this was unrealistic as the parallel market had only demonstrated an ability to generate an average of US\$32 million monthly or approximately US\$384 million.

He also stated that he had indicated his concern that there would be a shortfall of approximately US\$150 to U.S.\$160 million — with painful consequences.

"I think this shortfall has been confirmed in the form of a never-ending bidding match for U.S. dollars which is devaluing the Jamaican dollar without any structural economic benefits to be derived for the country due to many other contradictory aspects of the economic programme, while serious social and economic hardships are being experienced across Jamaica".

He said the fundamental problem of the parallel market rate of exchange was that supply could not meet the demand and the solution was to reduce the import quotas on a basis of national priorities to the U.S. dollar level that the parallel market had indicated it could support — \$380 million to \$400 million.

Currency devaluation was one that had become a political issue instead of being treated as an economic issue with political effects, he said, adding that the devaluation of the Jamaican dollar was a legitimate prerequisite of any economic strategy to cure some of the pressing problems.

He added that one could not legislate foreign exchange but could administer it expeditiously. The wave of bidding for foreign exchange, the supply of which was essentially fixed, was being counter-productive.

Mr. Thomas proposed that the buying and selling rates in the parallel market should be fixed on a weekly or monthly basis in conjunction with the Bank of Jamaica; that there be one rate quoted by all commercial banks; that all transactions take place at the prevailing rate and eliminate the behind-the-scene negotiations which were forcing up the rate.

On quotas, Mr. Thomas said permits must have a time-schedule of payments for accessing the market. He said there was approximately U.S.\$500 million worth of quotas yet only \$100 million was available daily. Therefore, there must be a time-schedule for payment and accessing the parallel market, he said.

"Ultimately, we must unify all the exchange rates, because until this is done, and Government must have a source of supply of dollars from some sector, then we will not be able to take full advantage of the competitive edge given us by the C.B.I., as some sectors will in effect have to pay an export tax to meet Government's debt services", he said.

The Export Development Fund which supports export efforts by Jamaican manufacturers to CARICOM is now unable to function and meet commitments to the commercial banks as the Fund is holding the equivalent of US\$40 million in soft currency at the CARICOM rate of exchange of U.S.\$1 to J\$2.25.

The Bank of Jamaica is unable to reconvert this amount to United States dollars except by entering the parallel market at a subsidy loss of between J 80 cents to J\$1.25 if converted for the E.D.F. This will mean a national tax loss of between \$40 million to \$50 million, which the country cannot afford.

This was stated by Mr. Paul Thomas, Deputy President of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association at the weekly luncheon meeting of the Rotary Club of Downtown Kingston at the Ocean Hotel on Monday.

Speaking on the economic situation and its relation to CARICOM trade, Mr. Thomas said that for many years

successive governments had effectively been subsidising the Jamaican dollar by foreign loans "in order to meet their political survival criteria by supplying the expectations of the voter". This was readily seen in the present CARICOM predicament facing the manufacturers.

Pointing to the CARICOM exchange rate of U.S.\$1 to J\$2.25, Mr. Thomas said the situation was that it was cheaper to import goods from CARICOM than similar goods could be manufactured here because of the "unfair and discriminatory rate".

"In effect, we in Jamaica are now subsidising our CARICOM competitors at the expense of the Jamaican producers," he declared.

Turning to the E.D.F., he said that at present most of the resources supported export efforts to CARICOM. The manufacturers took 'hard' U.S. dollars and bought raw materials, shipped them into CARICOM, receiving soft CARICOM dollars in return and only any net difference in hard currency.

Exports Role in Exchange Crisis

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Aug 83 p 13

[Text]

The president of the Jamaica Manufacturers' Association, Mr. R. Anthony Williams, has expressed the view that there is no alternative but to increase the export earnings from non-traditional areas if the country is to overcome its foreign exchange woes.

Speaking on the theme

"The New Economic Realities and the Role of the Manufacturing Sector" at the recent monthly meeting of the Montego Bay Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Williams noted that Jamaica's traditional foreign exchange earners had been unable to provide the support the

economy needed and the onus was now on the manufacturing sector to tighten the slack created by the contraction of these traditional areas.

Since the late sixties the manufacturing sector had been an important contributor to the country's economic growth and had consistently accounted for over 15 percent of Jamaica's Gross Domestic Product, Mr. Williams added.

"Despite its potential, however, the manufacturing sector is still way below its maximum. Many enterprises are operating at reduced output and some are just limping along."

He listed the scarcity of raw materials, high cost finance and competition from imports (legal and illegal) as some of the main short term constraints on the sector's ability to realise its full potential.

"The allocation of foreign exchange is perhaps the biggest because it involves some very hard decisions which must be taken. But in our present situation raw materials and spare parts must be given priority in the distribution of foreign exchange even at the expense of consumer and capital goods.

"There is no reason why consumer goods imports should increase by 21

percent as they did in 1982, while raw material imports fell in the same year by 18 percent," Mr. Williams pointed out.

It was clear, he said, that a drastic redeployment of the foreign exchange budget, away from non-essential acquisition, was needed.

Only after the problems of the sector were recognised and tackled, and the necessary foreign exchange and incentives generated into it would the sector reach its potential to regenerate foreign exchange and a surplus, Mr. Williams concluded.

Small Businessmen's Dissatisfaction

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 11 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica, Wednesday, (CANA) — Jamaica's small businesses have complained about national policies they say have thrown them into open competition with large well-heeled establishments.

Adolph Brown, the President of the Small Business Association (SBA, a grouping of 40 000 small enterprises, in a speech here yesterday said that the atmosphere in which small businesses were forced to operate and the obstacles placed in their way, were not conducive to development.

"We have been thrown as it were into open competition with large establishments...."

Brown told Rotarians. "They enjoy the benefits of economies of scale and have a tradition of contracts for the supply of raw materials and very often advantageous arrangements for the supply of and payment for goods received.

"These arrangements appear to be deliberately placed outside of the reach of small operators," he added.

Brown said that there were large manufacturers here "who are prepared and allowed" to spend huge sums to acquire additional equipment to produce a single component, when the same thing might be produced by a small manufacturer "cheaper

and more efficiently."

The SBA president said that large manufacturers were "aided and abetted" by distributors in terms of how they dealt with orders and payments. Conditions were always less favourable to small businesses, he claimed.

Brown was critical of the government's policy, under its free enterprise philosophy, of opening up the Jamaican market to "the importation of a wide-range of consumer and household items" that are made in Jamaica, when they were neither better nor cheaper.

Said he: "What are we to make of the freeing up of the market in this way?"

"In our opinion, this has been done firstly to ac-

commodate the requirements of the International Monetary Fund (with which Jamaica has a US\$650 million programme).

"Secondly, it has been done to facilitate certain sectors within the business community who, because of their own selfish reasons, had embarked upon a well prepared public relations plan designed to sell themselves at the expense of small businesses."

The people behind the plan, he said, "were the people who had two homes to maintain. They did not have the courage or commitment to help us build something here."

"But they didn't want to risk not getting a share in what the rest of us toiled for."

"So they kept one happy home somewhere abroad where they could keep their profits and foreign exchange and they also kept a home functioning here so they

could manipulate the system and earn the said profits and the said foreign exchange."

"This is the group of people with contacts and experience which enable them to get the backing of financial institutions."

"They are the ones who are allowed to import finished products rather than raw materials."

Brown charged that another element in the strategy of this class, having put pressure on small businesses, was to "lump every economically adventurous and pioneering persons" into the category of higglers (petty traders) who were now blamed for foreign exchange shortages and competition in the sale of goods.

".... The higglers have not spirited away foreign exchange (as was charged against the middle class in the 1970s)", Brown said. "The higglers earned every dollar abroad and returned with goods which the country needed. They are not the

ones who bled the country."

He criticised too the tiered exchange market system here (an official rate of J\$1.78 for a U.S. dollar and a parallel rate set by commercial banks according to demand), which the SBA felt was an attempt to "correct the mistake of allowing one sector to run the economy to a wreck."

But in the attempt to correct the initial mistake, he said, the government had allowed selfish bankers to create more problems.

He added: "The government is allowing one selfish group within the banking community, particularly one bank with no real interest in the Jamaican economy to devalue the (Jamaican) dollar at such a rapid rate by outbidding all contenders in the field."

"We have watched the dollar slip in its exchange rate from \$1.70 to \$1.80 to \$2.00, to \$3.20 and \$5.50. How much longer will the government wait before it puts an end to this path of destruction."

AGRICULTURAL SECTOR PREPARES TO RESPOND TO CBI

Society's Pledge

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Aug 83 p 13

[Text]

Opportunities for export by farmers of fresh and processed farm produce, through the new Export Trading Company of the Jamaica Agricultural Society, were outlined by the Executive Director of the Jamaica National Export Corporation, Mr. Peter King to Board members of the JAS at their monthly meeting, on Wednesday.

At the end of the discussion which followed, the JAS Board pledged to work jointly with the JNEC to make full use of the opportunities provided under the Caribbean Basin Initiative for farm produce.

JAS President, Mr. Courtney Fletcher, welcomed the duty-free provisions under the CBI, especially those relating to crops formerly dutiable such as ginger root, mangoes and pepper, among some 32 items. He said the society would be willing to work alongside the JNEC in clinic workshops across the island, geared to inform farmers fully about the CBI and the opportunities for export. It was decided that the first three of

these clinic workshops were to be held in Mandeville, Montego Bay and Morant Bay.

Mr. King listed the areas in which the society could concentrate to gain access to the United States market. He said the JNEC would continue to collaborate with the JAS in the Export for Profit Programme launched last year. Farmers, he said, could only derive rewards from the CBI if account was taken of quality and efficiency.

Mr. King and Mr. Derrick Cox, JNEC's New York Trade Commissioner, who accompanied him to yesterday's meeting, replied to a number of questions raised by farmers. During the exchange, Mr. Cox revealed that there was a potential market for some 400 tons of dried, peeled ginger at US\$1.50 per pound in the US market. Jamaica had been unable to supply the market and there was a shortfall in output from other suppliers.

Potential also existed for selling dried pepper in the USA. Unfortunately, said Mr. Cox, Jamaica's peppers had not been accepted. Mr. Cox said local farmers must compete with Trinidad and Tobago in the fresh pepper market.

In response to a question as to the best time for farmers to export certain products to the US market, Mr. King said Jamaica's crops stood a better chance during the winter months when the U.S. domestic crops were usually low. However, the JNEC would be providing information as to the times of access that the products could enter the US market. He said marketing studies had been done by the JNEC on the US ethnic market in the Tri-state areas, which were available to farmers in the Corporation's library.

Mr. King presented copies of the 1983/84 Export Directory to Board members.

Also accompanying him to the meeting was Mr. L.W. Coore, Consultant on fresh goods to the

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IS REPORTEDLY GEARING ITSELF to make maximum use of the opportunities which will be offered by the Caribbean Basin Initiative. At the same time the sector is taking note of the increasing demand for Jamaican products, brought about by the current unrest in Central America.

These statements were made by Mr. Brascoe Lee, a Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture on Monday, at the official opening of a two-week Plant Quarantine Course sponsored by the Ministry of Agriculture and the Food and Agricultural Organisation. The Course is taking place at the veterinary conference room at the Ministry's Old Hope Road office, and participants are drawn from both the public and private sectors.

According to a release from the JIS, Mr. Lee said that the country was getting serious about export agriculture. A number of facilities were being put in place, he stated, and pointed to the fumigation facilities being established at the airports and Port Bustamante. Other facilities include a system for the curing of yams which has been set up by the Marketing Division of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Referring to the need for increased production in the agricultural sector, Mr. Lee said that the demand for Jamaican products was increasing, as the current unrest in Central America has resulted in additional inquiries from the United States for certain Jamaican agricultural products.

It was important and significant PS said, that the course was taking place at this time, as with the coming of Agro-21, it was important that there should be proper protection for existing plants and that only disease-free plants were imported in the new drive for increased production.

Mr. Lee said that it has been estimated that in recent years pre-harvest losses caused by pests and disease to Jamaica's most important crops amounted to some \$126.3 million.

He took note of the fact that Jamaica had remained relatively free of most of the world's most

destructive plant pests and diseases, and said that this was a credit to those who worked in the Plant Protection Services of the country.

The Parliamentary Secretary stressed that agriculture was the foundation on which the country must rest, and that it was this sector which could make the greatest impact in the shortest possible time.

He urged the participants to make the fullest use of the course because they would have to continue to play a vital role if agricultural production was to expand to meet the opportunities now available, the release said.

GLENER REPORTS STATISTICS ON STATES OF ECONOMY

[Editorial Report] From 18 through 23 August 1983, excluding Sunday, 21 August, Kingston's THE DAILY GLEANER ran a boxed front-page feature entitled "Facts on the Economy." The following is a chronological compilation of these items, in their entirety:

[Text]

\$355-m quarterly trade deficit

The trade deficit — the difference in value between exports and imports — soared to J\$355 million for the first quarter of 1983. This deficit is almost 50 per cent greater than the J\$238 million deficit for the first quarter of 1982.

The much increased deficit was caused by a marginal fall in the value of exports (from \$290 million to \$268 million — an 8% fall) and an 18 per cent increase in the value of imports (from \$529 million to \$623 million).

Foreign Exchange Reserves fall

The foreign exchange reserves of the country hit an all-time low of MINUS U.S. \$948 million at the end of April 1983.

The July 1983 Bank of Jamaica Statistical Digest shows that the reserves declined by U.S. \$85 million in the month of April alone.

During the year to April 1983, the reserves have fallen by U.S. \$302 million from minus U.S. \$645

million to U.S. \$948 million — a decline of almost 50%.

The international reserves include the short-term foreign liabilities of the Central Bank which have grown during the year to April 1983 from U.S. \$652 million to U.S. \$705 million.

The medium-term foreign exchange liabilities of the Central Bank, which are also included have almost doubled during the same period, from U.S. \$230 million to U.S. \$441 million.

Income Tax collections increase

The Government's income tax collections of J\$304 million were increased by almost 25 per cent during the first five months of 1983 compared to the same period of 1982 (J\$245 million).

Although January 1983 collections were down on 1982, all the other four

months showed much larger collections. Over \$164 million was collected in the month of March alone — the first time that over \$100 million has been collected in any one month.

Total collections for 1982 were \$592 million.

40% Increase in Government Spending

Total gross spending by Government during April, 1983 — the first month of the new Budget year — was \$290 million, an increase of 43% over the \$202 million spent during April, 1982.

Recurrent expenditure increased by \$28 million to \$192 million, whilst capital expenditure for the month amounted to \$98 million. Capital expenditure had therefore increased by 152% above the \$39 million spent during April, 1982.

The Budget deficit — the difference between Government's revenue and expenditure — was \$136 million for the month of April, 1983, as against the Budget deficit of \$96 million for the same period in the previous year.

The Budget deficit was financed by borrowings from the Central Bank by \$152 million adjusted for transactions with the domestic commercial banks and foreign borrowings.

Inflation rate 11.6%

The annualised rate of inflation for the first four months of 1983 was 11.6 per cent, as measured by the Jamaica Consumer Price Index which moved from 356 to 369.8 (January 1975 = 100).

The inflation rate in each of the four months varied considerably. On a point-to-point basis, the annualised inflation rates were

January — 8.8 per cent

February — 12.7 per cent

March — 16.9 per cent

April — 7.5 per cent

The higher rates in February and March were no doubt caused by the increase in prices of a number of goods caused by their movement to the parallel market in early January.

The Sub-index for food and drink items increased at the annual rate of 16 per cent in January and 19 per cent in February.

The Jamaica Consumer Price Index moved upwards by 7 per cent during 1982.

MANLEY CASTIGATES REAGAN REMARKS CONCERNING JAMAICA

Bridgetown SUNDAY SUN in English 21 Aug 83 p 5

[Column "Michael Manley File": "A Stooping President"]

[Text]

KINGSTON, Jamaica — President Reagan recently made a speech in Florida. Among other things, he said:

Jamaica flirted with radical socialism and it turned a tranquil, peace-loving country with great economic potential into a bitterly-minded, impoverished society. It is a tribute to the freedom-loving Jamaicans that they withstood the totalitarian temptation and are now rebuilding their country's prosperity with the tools of freedom and democracy. . . .

When I got to Washington, one of the first heads of state to visit the White House was Jamaica's Prime Minister, Seaga. He was anxious to build his economy and, together, we worked out a programme to encourage private sector investment.

"By turning his country away from socialism, Prime Minister Seaga has ended seven years of economic decline that plagued his people. One hundred and sixty-two new investments have been made to date, providing the potential for thousands of new jobs. . . ."

This is not the first time that the United States President has commented on the Jamaican political scene. His remarks are interesting from two points of view.

In the first place, President Reagan is guilty of serious impropriety. Jamaica is a two-party democracy in which both parties have alternated in power regularly over the last 38 years. The President's remarks are, therefore, a surprisingly vulgar interference in the internal affairs of an independent state.

DISHONESTY

More important than this breach of basic protocol is the incredible dishonesty of the entire statement, a dishonesty that is consistent with his earlier remarks along the same lines. In fact, the whole statement is a classic example of how half-truths, innuendos and plain falsehoods can be strung together to create a massive falsification of fact and truth.

It is interesting to dissect the statement both to clarify the truth and to indicate how politicians of the "radical right" spread their slime across the political landscape.

Firstly, whatever contribution socialist ideas made to the division of Jamaica was nothing compared with the propaganda and violence that were unleashed by the rightwing forces of Jamaica led by the opposition and country's major daily newspaper. In spite of continuing attempts to manipulate the understanding of the history of that time, the objective historians of the future will be forced to conclude that socialist ideas may have contributed to the excuse but that the division of Jamaica and the bitterness and fear associated

with it must be laid firmly at the door of the activists of the right in the political system and in the Press.

Secondly, the statement implied that freedom and democracy were under threat prior to 1980 and have now been restored since 1980. This would be laughable if it were not such a contemptible lie. The fact is that the government at the time willingly co-operated with the opposition to find ways to improve our electoral system and make proof against manipulation. The fact is that the Press was absolutely free, indeed, abused its freedom on an almost daily basis with the crudest libels and an unending cacophony of propaganda and misrepresentations.

BIG LAUGH

So far from freedom being under threat and now resurrected, it would be true to say that freedom was abused in the 1970s and now allowed to operate normally because the present opposition is employing non-confrontationist methods.

However, the biggest laugh is saved for the end. The United States President betrays his hand finally when he asserts that Jamaica was impoverished before 1980 but that prosperity is now being built with the attendant blessings of fuller employment and everything else.

The fact is that unemployment is rising. When the former government left office it was a little over 26 percent. It is now over 28 percent and by present indications, well on its way to 30 percent. In spite of being lent one and a quarter billion dollars (US) in the last couple of years, Jamaica's foreign exchange situation is more desperate now than at any time since independence in 1962. By contrast, the former government borrowed some \$800 million (US) in eight and a half years in office.

The parallel market foreign exchange system introduced this year has produced chaos in the Jamaica economy which is now grappling with no less than five separate exchange rates and all of that with no advantage to the country in terms of increased availability of foreign exchange to the country.

One could continue the recitation of woe. But this is not the purpose of this column. Our interest is to show how far a cynical politician will go in the falsification of fact to try to make a point that supports an impression he is trying to create. Common enough in "hustings" politics, this has another implication when the President of the most powerful nation on earth stoops to this in relation to a small independent nation.

Interestingly enough, the most crushing answer to Reagan's further act of interference in Jamaican politics is supplied by the latest public opinion poll reading of the Jamaican scene. Although these figures have not yet been published, I am reliably informed that the standings between the political parties is now 55 percent to 45 percent. Needless to say, Reagan's pet neo-colonialist toy, the party of the present Government, is rating the 45 percent. On the other hand, it is the democratic socialists of whom he is so unreasonably afraid who are rating the 55 percent.

CSO: 3298/918

GLEANER DISCERNs 'SENSE OF DRIFT' IN GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Aug 83 p 8

[Editorial]

[Text]

One cannot help but notice that in recent weeks there has been a sense of drift in the society. The Government and some Ministers, especially the Prime Minister, are seen to be working, but somehow the communication gap between the Government and the people appears to be widening, and the Government appears sometimes to be slow to react to crises, such as the irresponsible 'sick-out' by the Police Federation.

When a country is facing economic crisis, when there appears to be an increase in household robbery, in personal mugging in the last few weeks, slowness to react to other crises increases the feeling of drift in the society.

We notice too that despite frequent meetings between the Government and the Private Sector, they appear to be moving apart. The Government was elected on the basis that it believed implicitly in a mixed economy with the Private Sector playing a more prominent role than under the former administration which had made it clear that in its view of the mixed economy, the Government

must play the dominant role. Yet, what have we? A disgruntled Private Sector feeling that it is not wanted, and that lip service only is being paid to its role. A greater responsibility rests upon the Government to see that this sense of drift is halted, and that the Private Sector and the Government move in greater tandem to restore this country's economy.

Parliament appears to be moribund except for few sallies of debates from the Senate. The House is almost dead, as very few members pay it the courtesy of attending, and many attend simply to sign the register and to disappear to do their own business. It is difficult to get a quorum, and even after getting a quorum, the quorum dissipates for members are not interested in Parliament. This contributes to the sense of drift.

In this respect, the fault lies not only with Government members, but also with Opposition members, yet they are so few in numbers, that if the Government with 51 members were to pay serious attention to Parliament, then Parliament could at least have numbers present, and backbenchers could be encouraged to ask

questions and to move Private Members' Motions on behalf of their constituencies. For Parliamentarians must not only be seen in their offices, but must be seen to be working in Parliament. That is why they were elected.

There is this sense of drift also in respect of the economy. The Government has been forced to take austerity measures because of the enormous cut-back in bauxite production. But there is a feeling that the country is not being made aware of all the information which is vital to it to allow it to come to grips with the economic situation, to accept the austerity measures with a degree of tolerance instead of with a degree of frustration, and to move into production with a will and a determination to succeed.

Meetings are held with the banks over days and days, and yet the public does not know what took place. The bankers are silent, the Government is silent. We are aware, of course, that the Government is inhibited by the agreement with the International Monetary Fund in that it is not allowed to lay down certain conditions on the

commercial banks. But surely, if the Government is involved in discussions with the commercial banks, the country should be made aware of the nature of those discussions and thus avoid widespread rumours as to what has taken place and to the effect of what has taken place.

We urge the Government to come out of its enforced silence and abandon its view that because the former Government talked *ad nauseum* and lost credibility, it will not risk this. We should like to suggest that credibility can be lost also by talking too little and explaining too little. It is time for the Government to cut away this sense of drift, by taking the country into its confidence.

The Jamaica 21 celebrations, highlighted by that remarkable ceremony of Friday August 5 and early morning August 6, showed that Jamaicans and Jamaica had come of age. It is time for the Government to treat them as adults, not as children in need of protection. Tell them the facts, and the public will react with a sense of courage. For Jamaica has surmounted many crises. It can surmount this one also.

CARL STONE REVIEWS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, SEES NO REAL PROGRESS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Aug 83 p 8

[Article by Carl Stone]

[Text]

The recent announcement by two major companies of a drastic reduction in their work week is a clear indication of a build up of pressures within the economy which could reach crisis proportions between now and the end of the year.

The two companies involved have a good track record of production and must obviously be hurting to have to cut back their work week.

It would seem, however, that they represent the tip of the iceberg as a check with several manufacturers reveals that many are anticipating lay-offs and closures due to pressures now being experienced.

The problems seem to be many. The scarcity and high price of foreign exchange is beginning to show up in a crippling shortage of raw materials in key industries. The depressed state of the domestic market is causing serious problems for both sales and collection of revenue and accounts receivable. A great deal of economic activity centres around transactions between companies and here many enterprises are finding that those with whom they do business are not paying their bills. The impact is that many companies are being choked by cash flow problems.

Not helping

The climate of uncertainty caused by the chaotic parallel market in currency is, of course, not helping any. Money is tight and expensive. In industries like tourism where there was so much hope and where now an absurd dual rate of exchange is causing horrors for hoteliers and resentment by tourists, serious questions are being asked about whether the government's financial management is really geared to assist private sector development.

Foreign owned enterprises have been jolted by the fact that their local profits and dividends are now on the parallel rate. Large public sector enterprises are competing with many small private firms for the parallel market dollar and there is increasing resentment at the Central Bank's efforts to buy up large quantities of the parallel market U.S. currency supplies. Small business interests are in many cases literally staring bankruptcy in the face.

Open secret

It is an open secret that some persons have begun to convert their Jamaican dollar currency holdings into U.S. dollars and to export their cash to safe overseas bank accounts as a hedge against an expected big devaluation by year end and out of fear that the economy is fast returning to the crisis-ridden days of the latter PNP years.

The word 'recovery' has been quietly dropped from the vocabulary of the Jamaican private sector as deep gloom and pessimism have replaced the cautious optimism of 1982.

As a result, private sector opinion which was only recently so enthusiastically in favour of the present government, its leader and its policies has begun to seriously question the JLP's approach to the private sector.

A sham

The businessmen speak about a communication gap between the government generally and the Prime Minister specifically, on the one hand, and the private sector on the other. Secondly, there is a feeling that their views are totally ignored in policy matters and that while there is a lot of pro-private sector talk from the JLP, the actions and policies of the government are of a quite different character.

There is a deep feeling in some business circles that the government's commitment to freeing up the economy is a sham and that government regulation of the

private sector has actually increased over and above what obtained when the PNP was in power.

Open criticisms are being voiced within business circles which suggest that the Prime Minister is making too many decisions; that he does not listen and is hostile to criticism; that he is surrounded by advisors who have no real grasp of the business sector; and that he operates more like an economic commissar than like a policy maker open to dialogue and consultation on policy matters.

The trade union leaders are also upright. In spite of the JLP BITU affiliation, trade union opinion has portrayed the government as generally being anti-union and anti-workers. Much is made of the past as a means of stabilising and calming a potentially explosive labour relations situation where unrealistic wage demands are now becoming the order of the day.

To be sure, there is much that is wrong with the over-centralised mechanisms of decision-making in the government. Many mistakes have been made but there are no simple solutions to the policy problems this country faces. As disillusionment with over-optimistic economic projections of the JLP increases, there is a real danger here of various vested interests making a scapegoat of the JLP leadership as a cover for their own deficiencies. A great deal of that happened in the Manley years and it was encouraged by hysterical and one-sided press commentary who pretended that Michael Manley and the "left" were the beginning and the end of the country's economic problems. It was encouraged also by the then JLP opposition who ironically is now on the receiving end of irrational thinking it helped to unleash.

Political isms, rhetoric, catch phrases, messianic leadership and false claims to financial wizardry have promised economic solutions and fascinated us over the past 10 years but they have delivered no real progress beyond empty pretensions. The country needs to settle down, take stock of itself and begin to accept the fact no miracles are going to happen, and that the way forward is going to be a hard and difficult one.

NEW FEATURES MARK START OF VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE

Updated Listing Operation

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 22 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Enumeration '83--The counting of persons eligible to vote in Jamaica elections--starts today. All persons 18 years old and over will be enumerated, so that their names can be placed on the new Voters' List that is being prepared.

Official notices on the air and in the press have been setting the stage for the start of the process, which is being carried out by the Electoral Office under the overall charge of the Minister in Charge of Electoral Matters, the Hon. J.A.G. Smith.

Everyone living permanently in Jamaica and ordinarily resident in this country, or a Commonwealth citizen residing in Jamaica for one year or more, is eligible to be placed on the Voters' List.

Each person eligible for enumeration will be visited by a team of four authorised persons: an enumerator, a photographer, and two scrutineers. This team will function as a unit while the enumerator does the actual interviewing.

Members of the public, and particularly those eligible to be placed on the Voters' List, are being asked to co-operate with the team, in order that the enumeration process is carried out smoothly and efficiently.

A message to the public from the Electoral Office says: "You can help by making yourself available when the enumeration team is likely to call. Anticipate the time of their visit by keeping a look-out for the commencement of enumeration in your area or street, and by judging how soon it will reach your door."

Another appeal to the public by the Electoral Office says: "Welcome the enumerator and answer all the questions promptly and correctly... Have your answers ready to questions such as What is your weight? What is your mother's maiden name and place of birth? What is your father's name and place of birth?"

Under the slogan, "We're taking care elections are fair", the campaign is urging citizens: "Register to vote. It's your right."

The previous enumeration exercise, leading to the preparation of the Voters' List, took place in mid-1980. This was in readiness for the General Election which was held on October 30 that year.

Identification Procedures

Kingston THE DAILY CLEANER in English 23 Aug 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] A major objective in the democratic process in Jamaica began yesterday when, for the first time, enumeration of electors started with simultaneous photographing and thumb-printing of all persons qualified to vote in an election in this island.

The new system, which is designed to eliminate bogus voting or other types of electoral fraud, has long been endorsed by the two major political parties as necessary to secure the fundamental right of electors to vote. It is being carried out by the Electoral Advisory Committee.

From early in the day in some areas of the country, the enumerating teams, comprising four persons, went about the business of getting all persons over the age of 18 and qualified to vote, enumerated. The four members of the team included the enumerator, a photographer and two scrutineers — one from either of the major political parties.

By late in the day, the teams in nearly all of the 5,502 polling divisions, into which the 60 parliamentary constituencies are divided, were on the road at the start of an exercise that will continue over the next twelve months and during which all efforts will be bent on enumerating all of the over one million persons of 18 years and over who qualify to vote in a local election.

This is the first time that enumerators are being accompanied by photographers whose function form part of the enumeration exercise and it is the first time, too, that electors are having their photographs and thumb-prints taken, immediately after the questionnaire is administered.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE seeks to obtain information on the date and place of birth, occupation and details of parental ties; so that when the enumeration of the electors is completed, not only ought the vital data about their identity to be entered on the form, but it will contain their thumb-prints and have their photographs attached.

The document, with the photograph

attached, will eventually be submitted to the Chief Electoral Office, and from it the elector's identification card will be prepared.

Photographing and thumb-rinting of electors as part of the enumeration exercise has been the subject of an undertaking to which the two major political parties were committed some 20 years ago. In 1962, photographing of electors on a limited scale took place during enumeration, but on that occasion, the elector was enumerated and was obliged to go to a trailer to have his photograph taken.

A large number of those who were enumerated failed to turn up at the trailers to have their photographs taken, with the result that their names did not appear on the final Voters' List.

Subsequently, when the independent Electoral Advisory Committee was appointed during the 1970's and given full responsibility for the conduct of elections, the preparation of an identification card for each elector, with his photograph and thumbprint imprinted, was part of the mandate handed to that Committee as the ideal towards which it should work.

COINCIDENT with the commencement of yesterday's enumeration exercise, Prime Minister Edward Scaga appealed to all citizens — "of whatever party" — to co-operate fully with the enumeration teams which will be visiting each household in the island in the coming weeks.

I ask you all to give the electoral officials your fullest support, and I especially urge all supporters of all parties to eschew any acts of violence or intimidation of electoral officers so that this process, which is designed to secure your most fundamental rights as free citizens, may proceed as smoothly as possible," he said.

Mr. Seaga said that the enumeration exercise "marks a further step in the safeguarding of our democratic process, in that, for the first time, all citizens who are enumerated will be photographed with the objective of preparing and issuing identification cards with built-in photographs to each voter. This system is designed to reduce the possibility of electoral fraud, and it is therefore in the interests of all to give it their support."

At the constituency level, the enumeration is under the direction of the Returning Officer, his assistant and an office attendant. Their activities are being monitored by the Director of Elections, Mr. Noel Lee, and members of his staff.

In response to a query yesterday, Mr. Lee said that six Regional Supervisors would be appointed, and given the specific task of supervising the enumeration, on a regional basis, over the next twelve months. He said the regions had already been demarcated.

The last enumeration took place during the period June 7, 1980 to June 6, 1981, during which over 990,000 electors were enumerated.

CSO: 3298/900

FORMER DEPUTY P.M. PATTERSON PLANS RETURN TO POLITICS

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 23 Aug 83 pp 1, 13

[Text]

Mr P.J. Patterson, former Deputy Prime Minister and M.P. for Westmoreland South East, announced on Sunday his intention to seek re-election to Parliament for that constituency in the next General Elections.

A crowd estimated at 2,000 attended the annual conference of the constituency at the Maud McLeod Secondary School, Darliston, Westmoreland, where the announcement was made. In his speech which came after the regular constituency business had been conducted, Mr. Patterson said he "would not tolerate P.N.P. members attacking each other".

"This is a time for peace, this is a time for love; that is the way of my party, that is the way of my people and that is my way. I have thought very hard and very carefully what is involved and I have come to a decision," he said.

"I want to make certain things abundantly clear. I want to state my commitment to the principles of Democratic Socialism as defined by the People's National Party...I want to make it clear that I am a person committed to a sense of discipline and of unity.

"When one comrade feels that the best interests of the party are served by attacking other people, I want to make it clear that P.J. Patterson will have none of that. And I want to make it clear that while in the past I have

suffered many indignities in silence, anybody who attacks me, my character, my dedication or my integrity, must understand that I will regard that as a declaration of war and I will respond to it in proper fashion.

"I am not going out and attacking anybody — that has never been my style".

Mr. Patterson went on: "At the present time there is a lot of discussion. You read it in the press, you hear it even in the party — who is right from who is moderate from who is left. I don't care who is moderate from left. My concern is who is a Democratic Socialist. If that is what you are then I am with you".

Mr. Patterson said he would accept the mandate given by the constituency in a resolution passed at the meeting urging that he become the constituency's candidate from the next General Election.

Mr. Patterson was the M.P. for Westmoreland South-East from 1970 to 1980. He was a Vice-President of the P.N.P. from 1969 until 1982 when he decided not to seek re-election to that post.

He was defeated by 6,007 votes to 4,952 in the October 30, 1980 General Election by Mrs. Euphemia Williams, one of the now Parliamentary Secretaries for Education

POLICE 'SICK-OUT' SETTLED AFTER MEETING WITH SHEARER

Ramifications of Police Action

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 15 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

A claim that some 60 percent of the 6,116-member Police Federation were on the sick-out which began on Friday was made yesterday by the chairman of the Federation, Sgt. D. R. Buchanan. But on Friday the Commissioner of Police had told the **Gleaner** that only some 18 per cent of the Police Force had reported sick.

He was unavailable yesterday for comment.

In reacting yesterday to the call by the Minister of the Public Service that he would meet with the Federation's executive today on condition that normality is restored, Sgt. Buchanan said that the Federation would not accept that condition.

Sgt. Buchanan claimed that the public was in favour of the Federation's action.

On the political front only the communist Workers Party of Jamaica has come out in support of the sick-out.

The Police Federation, according to Mr. Buchanan, represents approximately 97 percent of the entire police force of 6,316.

Sgt. Buchanan said that some policemen were doing work of a "tactical security" nature in the interest of the nation, but they had expressed their sympathy to those on 'sick-out.'

And in a statement yesterday PNP Opposition Leader Michael Manley expressed the party's grave concern over what he termed "the threat to public safety and security."

Mr. Manley said he was shocked at what he described as "the cavalier manner in which the government is handling the case In the public interest we call upon them to resume negotiations immediately and to work out a fair and just settlement in the context of the financial limitations which exist." He expressed sympathy with those whom he described as having "suffered as a consequence of the situation," and expressed his appreciation to the Special Constabulary Force.

SEVERAL SECURITY FIRMS reported yesterday an increase in the demand for their services over the week-end. Several householders holding parties on private premises in Beverly Hills, Barbican, Meadowbrook and Constant Spring areas requested the services of security firms.

However, there were other security firms that reported normal business. "We were expecting to get a lot of calls throughout the strike but there is nothing new," a spokesman for one firm said. "We had no extra duties to perform on the week end", another firm reported.

The **Gleaner** learnt that while there was no escalation in serious crimes there were incidents of street stealing. For example a woman was robbed of her gold chain while waiting with a friend in a No 34 JDS bus on King Street. She reported the matter to two police stations but was told that the police were not dealing with any cases.

The **Gleaner** understands that the matter will be discussed by the Cabinet today as a matter of urgency.

The Jamaica Defence Force has not been called out to assist the police. On Friday the Commissioner of Police said that the situation had not developed to a stage where such assistance was required. He had said then that the public should not panic.

Government Reaction to Demands

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 13

[Text] The Government would have to resort to taxation which would mean "disaster for this country" if it is to meet the demands for higher fringe benefits being made by the Police Federation, the Minister of Labour and the Public Service, the Hon J.A.G. Smith said yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Smith was speaking at his New Kingston offices yesterday at a press briefing at which he presented the Government's position on the five-day sick-out by members of the Police Federation to press their demand for increased allowances.

A meeting between the Minister and the Police Federation, which was scheduled for 4 p.m. yesterday, fell through.

"I must point out that not only is there no budgetary funds to meet them (the demands of the police), but the Government would be placed in a position where it would be honour-bound to review the cases of equally deserving sectors of the public services — sectors which have already met the national interest at this time by accepting what is now possible within the limit of the \$100 million which the Government at this moment can provide for wage increase in the public sector.

"Such a course could end in increased taxation and disaster for this country and for each and every one of you, each and every police officer, each and every adult, each and every child".

He said that the Government could provide only \$100-million in increased pay for the public sector for this financial year and that \$15-million of this was offered to the police for this year, as part of a \$22.3 million two-year offer.

"The Federation's demand over and above this offer would cost an additional \$14.8 million in the first year alone," Mr. Smith said.

Referring to the Government's offer as "the largest regrading in money ever made available to the police in the past ten years", the Minister pointed out other aspects of the current dispute. The police were willing to accept the increases, he noted, "but wish the application date to be 1st April 1983, rather than July 1 which all other public sector workers have agreed on in the national interest".

On Sunday, the chairman of the Police Federation, Sgt. D. R. Buchanan, had claimed that 60 per cent of the 6,116 members of the police force were on sick-out. In a statement on Saturday and again on Sunday, the chairman said that the police on sick-out would not return to normal work until Mr. Smith decided to meet with the Federation.

Explaining the reasons for the cancellation of the meeting set for yesterday, the Minister said the Federation "was quite definite that they had not made a call for the restoration of normalcy which would have created a climate to allow a meeting to take place".

The Minister said the police must resume duties before he could meet with them. Said Mr. Smith: "One of the main planks of Government's policy is that negotiation should be free, which means that no side should be asked to negotiate under duress or threat". This, he said, had been communicated to the Federation.

And responding to the claims of 60 per cent sick-out made by the Federation, Mr. Smith quoted figures which he said were the result of a parish-by-parish survey done by 12 noon yesterday, and which showed that only 20 per cent of the regular policemen were not on duty.

Mr. Smith complained that the Federation did not handle "this matter in the normal expected manner of advising the Ministry of the Public Service which is the negotiating arm of Government and with whom they had been conducting negotiations".

The chairman of the Federation, on his part, had complained that the Minister, rather than communicating to his organization directly, had communicated his messages through the news media.

Mr. Smith said he heard of the police "industrial action" from the media. Sgt. Buchanan said he heard about the call for a meeting through the media.

The claims being made by the Federation are: a 100 per cent increase in the police special allowances; additional increases in the house allowances; and the implementation of the increases from April 1 rather than July 1 as the Government is proposing.

"Given the fact that we are already faced with the necessity to make a Budget cut of \$149-million in the current financial year, where would the Federation suggest we cut further to finance their demands?" the Minister asked.

"On behalf of the nation, I wish to thank the 80 per cent, who are the vast majority, who have remained in their posts carrying out their obligations and responsibilities to the country; and also to say a special word of thanks to those members of the Special Constabulary Force who have readily assumed certain additional responsibilities in certain areas," he said.

A check by the *Gleaner* on the streets of the Corporate Area and at various police stations yesterday showed that very few uniformed policemen were on duty. A total of five uniformed regular policemen were seen on duty in the downtown section of the Corporate Area, while not one uniformed regular or special constabulary policeman was seen in the uptown shopping plaza which are normally frequented by the police on foot patrol. Most of the stores were being guarded by private security guards.

One police radio patrol car with what two plain-clothes policemen was seen in the Constant Spring area, while at the Central Police Station at East Queen Street, the compound was empty except for vans and a few plain-clothes men in the yard of the station.

Meanwhile, the sick-out enters its sixth day today.

Report on Settlement

Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 17 Aug 83 pp 1, 11

[Text] Members of the Police force began returning to work yesterday afternoon, ending their six-day sick-out on the instruction of the Central Executive of the Police Federation after the Executive had had a meeting with the Rt Hon Hugh Shearer, Deputy Prime Minister, in his acting capacity as Minister of National Security and Justice and with the Commissioner of Police, Mr Joseph Williams.

A "new twist" has entered the proceedings, arising from the meeting, Federation chairman, Sergeant D. Ricardo Buchanan, told the **Gleaner**.

As a result of the "new twist", he said, "we are going to propose something" to the full meeting of the Federation at 2 p.m. today at the Federation headquarters on East Street, in Kingston.

A similar emergency meeting of the Federation last Thursday had voted to take "immediate positive action" in support of wage and fringe benefits demands on the Government. The action would continue until the demands were met, the motion had stated.

Today's meeting will also consider how to proceed with the negotiations. A meeting between the Minister of Labour and the Public Service, the Hon. [Name], and the executive of the Federation has also been set for Friday morning, the **Gleaner** understands.

THE DECISION TO return to normal work was also issued after the Federation had considered carefully the public's safety and protection, Sgt. Buchanan said.

A meeting set for Monday afternoon between Mr. Smith and the Federation will go through in the absence of normal work among the rank-and-file of the more than 6,000 members of the Jamaica Constabulary Force, who, from the rank of inspector down, are represented by the Federation.

The three demands being made by the Federation and on which the negotiations had bogged down, leading to the sick-out, are:

- a 100 per cent increase in special allowances;
- the redressing of "serious" house allowances;
- the application date of payment under the contract to be retroactive to April 1 rather than July 1.

The sick-out was felt across the island with the Government and the Federation claiming different levels of support. Mr. Smith put the figure at 20 per cent while Sgt. Buchanan claimed a 60 per cent response.

Special constables and district constables carried out the additional duties.

Yesterday's meeting which paved the way, in the words of the Federation, for "members ~~on leave~~ to resume normality", followed a meeting between the Federation's Executive and the Commissioner and the Police High Command yesterday morning.

The Federation also met with them on Friday.

MR. SHEARER, WHO since Monday has been acting as Minister of National Security and Justice, in place of the Hon. Winston Spaulding, who is ill, was praised by Sgt. Buchanan for his part in the successful meeting.

Of Mr. Shearer, Sgt. Buchanan said:

"It was the most decent way the Federation has been spoken to since start of the negotiations", adding: "The atmosphere was friendly and there was no hostility".

Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Michael Manley, on behalf of the PNP executive, yesterday telegraphed Mr. Shearer calling on the Government "to resume negotiations immediately and work out a fair and just settlement".

The telegram which was sent after the P.N.P. Executive had discussed on Monday night the "grave national situation consequent on the impasse between the Government and the Federation", suggested a three-man board of enquiry to look into the matter if the call could not be implemented.

LUXURY GOODS IMPORTS FROZEN; RAW MATERIALS GET PRIORITY

Bridgetown SUNDAY ADVOCATE in English 14 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday (CANA)--Jamaica, short on foreign exchange, has put a freeze on the approval of licences for the importation of non-essential and luxury items and is giving priority to raw materials, Industry and Commerce Minister, Douglas Vaz, has announced.

"Instructions have been given by me to the Trade Board that applications for non-essential and luxury items will not be entertained," Vaz said in a newspaper interview. "These applications are pointless because they will not be entertained."

Emphasis is now on raw materials, "and in the case of capital goods, only on those which are productive and are geared toward the export efforts," the Minister said.

This is a statement that will be welcomed by several sectors here, including the Opposition, who have been sharply critical of the Government's import policy.

Jamaica is in severe economic problems and following its earlier failure of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) performance test, the Government was forced to cut its import budget for 1982-83 by US\$159 million, bringing it down to \$1.22 billion.

The allocation for consumer goods was chopped by US\$53 million and that for capital goods by \$101 million.

At the time of the cut the Government also made it mandatory for a wide range of imported products to be paid for on Jamaica's so-called parallel currency exchange market operated by commercial banks.

Some basic food and health items and government payments are still transacted at the less expensive official exchange rate of J\$1.78 for US\$1, but in the scramble for hard currency importers are paying banks up to J\$3.50 for US\$1, business officials here have complained.

This rate compares to the J\$2.76 banks were initially asking at the time of the formalisation of the tiered exchange rate system.

CSO: 3298/918

BRIEFS

REVENUE INCREASE--The government's income tax collections of J\$304 million were increased by almost 25 percent during the first 5 months of 1983 compared to the same period of 1982 (J\$245 million). Although January 1983 collections were down on 1982, all the other 4 months showed much larger collections. Over \$164 million was collected in the month of March alone--the first time that over \$100 million has been collected in any one month. Total collections for 1982 were \$592 million. [Currency expressed in Jamaica dollars] [Text] [FL261243 Kingston THE DAILY GLEANER in English 20 Aug 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1304

SINALOA POLITICAL SCENE, UPCOMING ELECTIONS DISCUSSED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 Aug 83

[Six-part article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Carlos Canton Zetina]

[Part I: 15 Aug 83 pp 1, 16]

[Text:] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 14 August--Nepotism, government corruption, rightist orientation of the state government, a shift in the politicians toward backing business owners, police repression, division among the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] groups and uneasiness among the population comprise a critical political situation in this state, where PRI will again be put to the test in the coming elections and, for the first time, may lose the most important municipalities: Culiacan, Mazatlan, Los Mochis and Mocorito.

And while the people's dissatisfaction with the state authorities grows, opposition parties such as PAN [National Action Party] and PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] in particular are waging intense campaigns on the eve of the replacement of the 18 local mayors' offices and 23 local deputyships this November.

Since the defeats inflicted on the party in power in the states of Chihuahua and Durango on 3 July, the elections in Sinaloa are discerned as another demonstration of strength by the parties opposing the Institutional Party.

Political leaders, lawyers, agrarian leaders and researchers have cited the risks that will confront PRI in the next elections (the closest ones to take place in a major state), chiefly as a result of the lack of political control.

A widespread malaise has been created among the population by Governor Antonio Toledo Corro's eagerness to bring business owners or prominent individuals with known right-wing affiliations into public administration, and the following are examples of this:

1. Roberto Tamayo, current municipal president of Culiacan, is acknowledged to be one of the richest farmers in Culiacan Valley.

2. Jaime Ibarra Montano, mayor of Ahome, has been identified as one of the leaders of local private enterprise.
3. Jose H. Rico, municipal president of Mazatlan, has a background as a prosperous banker.
4. Jose Ramon Fuentevilla, secretary of finance for the state government, was a banker before he held a post in public administration.
5. Ernesto H. Ortegón, who currently serves as secretary of food in the Toledo Corro government, was and is a prominent leader of the CODEREPE Group, the agroindustrial unit with headquarters in Ahome, the largest in the state.
6. Jaime Sevilla, secretary of public works in the state government, has spent his entire life as a contractor, and amassed a large fortune in that business.

Now, on the eve of the elections for mayors and local deputies, there is annoyance among the residents of Sinaloa at Toledo Corro's insistence that PRI run as candidates individuals who have been repudiated for their connections with private enterprise or for their proven inefficiency.

The National Action Party has not concealed its gratification at this situation, and its leaders have even stated publicly that, in the coming elections, "there will be only the PAN candidates and those nominated by Toledo Corro."

One fact that has contributed to the people's uneasiness is the state governor's position of removing mayors and deputies to run them as candidates in the elections to be held in November. "Castling of kings" and decisions made superficially have already caused problems such as those in the seventh and twelfth electoral districts, in which there are no popular representatives since Toledo Corro allowed the local deputies (office-holders and alternates) to request leaves of absence so as to have the legal status to be candidates in November.

Division Among PRI Members

Splits and lack of coordination and even of organization are obvious among PRI sectors. For example, the peasant sector has been weakened and worn out, because it is divided into several political movements. One is headed by Adrian Gonzalez, in overt conflict with Francisco Alarcon Fregoso (a close collaborator of Toledo Corro); because both are engaged in a premature struggle for control of the Sinaloa peasants. Alarcon, with a long-standing militancy in CNC [National Peasant Confederation], is a personal friend of Mario Hernandez Posadas, the future national leader of the National Peasant Confederation.

Another peasant group is led by Federal Deputy Homobono Rosas Rodriguez, former head of the state's League of Agrarian Communities.

The PRI labor sector, for its part, remains without a political leadership and without submission to Toledo Corro. Actually, it is coordinated from Mexico City by Alfonso G. Calderon, despite the fact that the CTM [Confederation of Mexican Workers] leader in the state is Senator Juan S. Millan.

And on the eve of elections, the popular sector has just had its state leadership replaced. Now, perforce, it will have to contribute to the PRI candidates' campaign.

In that sector, the split became evident a month ago, when the CNOP [National Confederation of Popular Organizations] leader in the state, Deputy Germinal Aramburo, refused to attend the ceremony at which he was replaced in the post by Fortunato Alvarez Castro. Aramburo has expressed his dissatisfaction to Toledo Corro.

The current political situation (replete with improvisations and improper political games) has been worsened by the fact that the PRI state managing committee, which was reorganized only 3 months ago, is now promoting its head to occupy the mayor's office in Culiacan or to hold a local deputyship. The public considers this a mistake on the part of Toledo Corro, because Jorge Romero Zazueta might possibly be an efficient people's representative, but would be a poor PRI candidate at this time when the opposition has been strengthened. In fact, he is credited with ability and an extensive administrative career, but his gruff, introverted personality has prevented him from waging a lively election campaign against his charismatic rivals.

Concurrently, the people consider it unfair to have ousted politicians with long careers who are effective and honest, for the sake of putting in the government or running as candidates in the next elections business owners or individuals who have been repudiated. Those who have been removed include Mario Niebla, Enrique Pena Batiz, Manuel Tarriba and Jesus Hernandez.

Another undeniable symptom of division in PRI: Jose Rico Mendila, outgoing municipal president of Mazatlan, has been unwilling to accept the resignation of the town hall treasurer, Luis Fuentevilla Pelaez, who wants to leave that post to try for the PRI candidacy for the mayor's office.

In Mazatlan there is indignation among the people at the state government's despicable maneuvers to discredit Humberto Rice Garcia, the PAN candidate for the municipal presidency, whom it accuses of alleged guilt of fraud committed against the local drinking water board, of which Rice was only honorary general coordinator. In this connection, the PAN leaders Jorge del Rincon and Rigoberto Lopez stated today that Rice is ready to prove that this is a political maneuver by Toledo Corro, in view of the absence of PRI candidates to run against PAN.

The 13 Resignations

A total of 13 Toledo Corro government officials, as well as mayors and deputies, have submitted their resignations or requested a leave of absence in order to be legally qualified for selection by PRI as its candidates, following which (next Wednesday) the pertinent notice will be issued.

This situation, which obviously shows the inability of the governor and the state PRI leaders to find or retrieve politicians with recognized membership

in the Institutional Party, has caused a considerable number of problems in public administration and in some mayors' offices.

Those who have resigned include four municipal presidents: Elvia Mundo de Navarro, of Choix, who will be a candidate for local deputy; Emilio Alvarez Ibarra, of El Fuerte, who will also seek a deputyship with PRI backing; Bernardo Rivero Acosta, of Mocorito, also to vie for a deputyship; and Oscar Osuna, of Concordia, who is similarly seeking a seat in the local congress.

The "castling of kings" is the order of the day: Rivero Acosta, mayor of Mocorito, requested a leave of absence to depart from his job and contend for the deputyship of the seventh electoral district; and the deputy for the latter, Crisanto Gonzalez Rosas, asked for leave to seek the office of mayor of Mocorito.

There is dissatisfaction among the people of Mocorito, because they unanimously reject Bernardo Rivero Acosta, whose brother, Manuel, has been the administrator of the Las Cabras farm, worth millions, which belongs to Toledo Corro. However, the protests have been futile. The governor refuses to heed the complaints of the residents of that municipality.

There is unrest in Mazatlan as well. It has been learned that the PRI candidate for mayor will be Ricardo Medrano Fillippini, former director of police and traffic in the state, whose record is not very good.

The deputies who requested a leave of absence in order to be PRI candidates for other positions with Toledo Corro's support (although he denies it) are Jaime Cecena Imperial, of the second district; Crisanto Gonzalez Rosas, of the seventh; Francisco Ramirez Corrales, of the thirteenth; and Marcos Urias Sotomayor, of the twelfth. The latter has also encountered the people's absolute rejection, because he is a lawyer who has always practiced his profession in the Federal District, and now, without any roots in Cosala, he wants to be municipal president.

Other loyal followers of Toledo Corro who have left their positions are the secretaries of the town halls of Mazatlan, Carlos Peraza Zamudio; of Salvador Alvarado, Fernando Diaz de la Vega; and of Sinaloa de Leyva, Jose Maria Verduzco; as well as the treasurer of El Fuerte, Humberto Galaviz; the revenue collector of Sinaloa de Leyva, Eduardo Solorio; the state director of police and traffic, Ricardo Medrano; the alternate deputies, Maria Luisa Solis Payan and Dora Maria; and the chief of public works for El Fuerte, Armando Apodaca.

[Part II: 16 Aug 83 pp 1, 8]

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 15 August--A total divorce between the government and the people (in the judgment of PAN) and the antidemocratic position of alliance with the ruling plutocracy in the government headed by the chief executive Antonio Toledo Corro (according to the Autonomous University of Sinaloa [UAS]) have given rise to "an obvious weakening" of PRI in this state.

"The Institutional Party could suffer a historic defeat" in the coming elections for mayors and local deputies in November. In agreement with this

statement are the representatives of two opposing political movements: Jorge del Rincon, PAN candidate for the municipal presidency of Culiacan, and Jorge Medina Viedas, rector of UAS.

Both add that there is disillusionment among the citizens regarding the government of Sinaloa, and each gives the grounds for his views:

According to Medina Viedas, who has been politically opposed to Toledo Corro ever since the latter assumed the governorship, PRI has lost consensus in Sinaloa, owing mainly to the "political obstinacy" of the current state governor and the increasingly close bond between the private sector and the local government.

The rector claims that the only way to curb the obvious rightist orientation in the state is for the governors, beginning with Toledo Corro, to behave with a view toward the people, and not toward the plutocracy, as has been the case thus far.

He stresses that the fact that the Sinaloa government palaces are becoming increasingly inhabited and run by ranchers who are uncultivated, but millionaires is disturbing.

He adds that the PRI's weakness is very real, but claims that it is not clear; noting that it will be the right or the left that benefits in the next elections. To be sure, if the party in power is defeated by the opposition, "it will mean a historic defeat, not only for PRI but also for the people and for Sinaloa, which has always been typified by its liberal tradition."

He is of the opinion that, in the Toledo Corro government, there has not been any solution with dialog, and that the democratic tradition has been undermined by the arrogant, pro-business position, with a lack of respect for dissidence, on the part of the state governor.

PRI Is Asleep

Del Rincon, a prosperous business owner who describes himself as "very Catholic and disappointed with the current political system," thinks that PAN has become strengthened because people no longer view that party as the perpetual loser, and because they are by now tired of the neglect to which they have been subjected by the PRI rulers.

Del Rincon explains: "But we have also been strengthened as a party, because we have taken the trouble to run the best people as candidates, regardless of whether they are business owners, professionals or ordinary workers; and, of course, because the Mexican people have a great deal of religious spirit, and they realize that PAN is respectful of their beliefs."

Nevertheless, in response to a question from the reporter, he denies that there is an alliance between the Church and PAN in Sinaloa, and even doubts that it existed in Chihuahua during the last elections in that state.

(Del Rincon has already spent a month in an election campaign; he has toured nearly the entire municipality of Culiacan, whose population he has constantly bombarded with written and verbal propaganda and that issued in televised messages. Meanwhile, PRI has not yet nominated a candidate.)

Del Rincon announces: "If the people elect me municipal president, I shall govern on wheels. Yes, sir; I shall set up an office in a vehicle, and set out for the settlements and townships of Culiacan to solve the people's problems along the way."

The PAN candidate lists the important points in his government program, in the event that he defeats PRI:

1. Economic strengthening of the municipality.
2. Provision of public services, which are now "totally deficient" in Culiacan, such as the introduction of drainage and drinking water, street paving, electrification and park construction.
3. Administrative decentralization, "because one cannot be a one-man band; one must delegate authority. This is what the PRI governors have failed to do here."
4. Permanent auditing in the town hall, and monthly reports on the financial statements.
5. A guarantee for honest, efficient and adequate public safety in the entire town; because proper police vigilance is lacking.
6. Constant communication and contact with the people.

(Del Rincon, who is over 50 years of age, gave a name to the station wagon in which he is conducting his campaign: "The Change." He drinks coffee in the voters' residences and recently ran 5 kilometers during a marathon which was part of his effort for proselytism. Meanwhile, PRI has not yet decided who its candidate will be.)

Political Abandonment in Sinaloa

Del Rincon declares: "PAN has also acquired strength and entrenchment in Sinaloa because it is the party that has achieved a duration of 40 years with doctrinal principles that are very much in keeping with the human nature and sensibility of the Mexican."

He claims that the people will not tolerate further growth in the Mexican state, because it "detracts space from freedom and limits options." He cautions: "The Mexicans do not want to have just one boss."

According to the PAN member who wants to govern this municipality of 600,000 inhabitants, with an explosive demographic growth (between 7 and 8 percent per year), there has been obvious political abandonment of the people by the state and municipal government.

(It has been learned here that Jorge Romero Zazueta, aged 38, will be the PRI candidate for municipal president of Culiacan, and hence the rival of Jorge del Rincon. Undersecretary of government for the then governor, Valdes Montoya, a major official in the administration of Alfonso G. Calderon, former chairman of the Conciliation and Arbitration Board, secretary of government for Toledo Corro and current president of the state PRI, Romero Zazueta nevertheless has a well-earned reputation for being inaccessible. His electoral battle against a popular Del Rincon will be difficult.)

In local political circles the rumor is gaining intensity claiming that PRI has not yet issued its notice for the coming elections and hence "has not unveiled" its candidates for mayor and local deputy because of the severe conflicts and pressures that have broken out among PRI sectors, some of whose representatives disagree with the decisions that Governor Toledo Corro is attempting to make.

Especially contested is the state governor's eagerness to impose Romero Zazueta, as soon as there is an opportunity, as municipal president of Culiacan, displacing a highly esteemed politician.

[Part III: 17 Aug 83 pp 1, 17]

[Excerpts] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 16 August--The private sector, which concentrates political and economic power and controls the news media in the state, is determined to gain more positions in the town halls and the local congress, despite the concern of vast sectors of the population which think that Sinaloa is sliding into a dangerous course that could turn it into an island of extreme right-wing business-owning preeminence.

This correspondent was told by engineer Francisco Solano, head of the Sinaloa Business Owners Center: "We are not seeking political posts for personal or selfish reasons. We simply want change, and PRI is no longer the option. It has never paid any attention to us." And he categorically announced: "The option is PAN, because its ideology is reconcilable with that of the business owners."

With the sympathy and even overt backing of Governor Antonio Toledo Corro, opposing a neutralized, vacillating PRI, with a divided CNOP and a labor sector that is a target of all the attacks from private enterprise, the latter is preparing to wage a harsh electoral battle, for which it will use thousands of farm laborers whom it controls.

Senator Juan S. Millan, secretary general of the Sinaloa Workers Federation (CTM), claims that, at the order of the agrarian bourgeoisie, over 150,000 peasants working in agricultural packing plants and on the planting and harvesting of garden produce have been exploited and are living without housing or fair wages, as well as lacking proper protection from IMSS [Mexican Social Security Institute]

It is public knowledge that the large agricultural business owners of Sinaloa control the peasant agencies and groups, using them as masses for unconditional support, or as a political springboard.

In his construction company office, Solano admits that there is in this state an insurgent movement against PRI, but explains that it is not composed merely of business owners, "but rather, 80 percent of it consists of other groups, such as professionals, teachers, students and housewives."

The fact is that many of the PAN and PRI candidates for the 18 mayors' offices and 23 local deputyships will be business owners or individuals associated with the private sector.

At the present time, business men not only have positions in the Toledo Corro cabinet, but have also gained a federal deputyship, three local deputyships and the four most important municipal presidencies in Sinaloa; in addition to which they have the national leadership of the garden produce growers and the chickpea growers. They also own newspaper, radio broadcasting and television companies, hotels and other business firms; they control the exports of food and agricultural raw materials, and wield a decisive influence on livestock raising, small farm ownership and the hog-raising and poultry raising of the nation.

Nefarious Control of Peasants

Andomar Ahumada Quintero, who resigned as local deputy to be the PSUM candidate for municipal president of Culiacan, maintains that the agricultural bourgeoisie in Culiacan keeps a nefarious control over thousands of peasants, whom it has ready as mass supporters or incapacitated persons, while an entire counterrevolutionary movement is being formed in this state.

He also complains of the state government's persecution and repression directed against opposition groups, including PAN and PST [Socialist Workers Party].

The Toledo Corro government is engaged in a maneuver against Ahumada Quintero, consisting of the "revival" of an incident (apparently an illegal one) that occurred in 1981 in an attempt to take legal action against him.

The PSUM member claims that the governor's attitude actually reflects the lack of cadres and assets in PRI with which to face the approaching electoral process.

Generally speaking, he adds, there have been threats against PSUM and PAN candidates, while PST has been disqualified from participating in the next elections; and this was a result of a "pettifogging maneuver with which we are not in agreement," he adds.

They Exploit Peasants

In an interview granted to this correspondent, Senator Juan S. Millan explains that the large farmers producing garden produce have earned sizable profits, noting that, during the 1981-82 season, they had earnings of half a million pesos per hectare of tomatoes planted. During the next season, 1982-83, the profits were far larger. Nevertheless, the farm laborers live under depressed conditions, in huts and cardboard shacks, without drinking water or

sanitary facilities, during the 6 or 7 months that the harvesting of garden produce lasts.

He adds that there are over 150,000 workers, who come primarily from the states of Oaxaca, Durango, Michoacan and Guanajuato, and the mountainous area of Sinaloa, involved.

He announces that he is taking action to have the Federal Congress, during its next session, change the IMSS law and its regulations, so that the workers who are rendering service in the agricultural packing plants will be considered to have the same rights that any plant worker has.

At present, he claims, the agreements signed between Social Security and the large farmers are disadvantageous for the farm laborers, who do not receive complete medical care nor the corresponding compensation for temporary or permanent disability.

[Part IV: 18 Aug 83 pp 1, 16, 17]

[Excerpts] Mocorito, Sinaloa, 17 August--"Let PRI heed us carefully; if it makes another mistake here, we shall cease to be PRI members; but, if not, there will be an end to abstentionism and we shall clear out the opposition in Mocorito." This was stated in a serious tone (reflecting determination and disappointment simultaneously) by the town's physician, the judge of the first instance, the teacher from an elementary school, an SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources] official, the merchants' leader and other representatives of the "community leaders" of this municipality of 70,000 inhabitants.

One common goal unites them: rejection of the PRI precandidates for municipal president and local deputy. And this is the essential reason that they give as an argument: The previous mayor turned Mocorito into an island, because he refused to build a bridge, while the former legislator never again returned for a stay here after his election campaign.

Now, in what the residents of Mocorito consider a cruel trick, PRI is attempting a "castling of the king" here, by running the former local deputy as a candidate for mayor, and selecting as a candidate for legislator the one who has just left the municipal presidency.

But the people's dissatisfaction does not exist in Mocorito alone, but also in other Sinaloa municipalities, whose residents have expressed their repudiation for the PRI precandidates. This holds true in Culiacan, where, with the backing of the party in power, the state governor has attempted to impose Jorge Romero Zazueta (of an inaccessible nature and rejected by the populace) and Lauro Diaz Castro (one of the leading and wealthiest farmers) as municipal president and local deputy, respectively.

Meanwhile, with PRI's delay in issuing the notice for the registration of the candidates, there is an atmosphere of political excitement throughout the entire state, and the conflicts among groups of political bosses and even among the

labor, popular, peasant, women's and youth sectors of the Institutional Party seeking the 18 mayors' offices and 23 local deputyships, the holders of which must be replaced during the election on 6 November.

In fact, whereas PAN and PSUM have already selected their candidates in the state's major municipalities, and have been engaged in intensive election campaigns for the past 1 and a half or 2 months, PRI is making daily postponements of its notice which would provide for the "unveiling" of its candidates.

The state PRI president, Romero Zazueta, has refused to give information on the delay in the notice, while Teofilo Borunda, that party's general delegate in Sinaloa, is spending most of his time in the Federal District or relaxing in Mazatlan.

Fierce Battle for Positions

The lack of political control in Sinaloa is reflected in the bitter disputes in some municipalities, particularly Culiacan, Mazatlan, Navolato and Los Mochis, on the part of political bosses and PRI sectors themselves, seeking the mayors' offices and local deputyships, and even the council seats in the town halls.

For example, in Navolato, the battle has broken out again between the peasant leader Yamaguchi Hernandez and the labor representative Francisco Ramirez Gurrules, a former deputy. Both are PRI members. The former has overt backing from Governor Toledo Corro, and the CNC leader in the state, Adrian Gonzalez Garcia. The latter is supported by the labor leaders Salvador Esquei and Fidel Velazquez, the top-ranking CTM leader in the country. Ultimately, there is every indication that Toledo Corro will win the contest.

In Culiacan, the governor is also bent on having PRI run as a candidate for mayor Jorge Romero Zazueta, the party's president in Sinaloa, who is repudiated by the population, especially the peasants, whom he regards as "dirty" and "foul-smelling."

In Mazatlan, the governor apparently retreated, and will no longer fight to have PRI run Ricardo Medrano Filipini as a candidate for municipal president. According to unofficial accounts, the "good one" will be Quirino Ordaz Luna, regional coordinator of CEPES [PRI Center for Political, Economic and Social Studies] in the southern part of the state. Medrano Filipini will be left like the dog with the two cakes; because he resigned as director of state traffic and transportation after he received a "bid" from Toledo Corro, who abandoned him in the end.

In Ahome, the municipal capital of which is Los Mochis, the state governor has insisted upon backing his friend, Guillermo Elizondo, but it seems certain that the PRI candidate for mayor will be Felipe Moreno Rosales, president of the municipal PRI, who is also protected by Toledo Corro, but rejected by the economic groups, particularly the farmers.

In Concordia, the candidate "bound" to the mayor's office is Eduardo Vizcarra, who nevertheless has not fulfilled the legal requirement to resign in a timely manner as secretary of the town hall; but he is backed by Toledo Corro. Margarita Garcia Beltran, the PRI undersecretary of electoral action for the state, might take the opportunity away from Vizcarra.

In the municipality of Salvador Alvarado, there is every indication that PRI will run as its candidate Hugo Lopez Perez, the current PRI leader who has popular support. An attempt was made to commit an injustice against him, because PRI originally wanted to back for the mayor's office Fernando Diaz de la Vega, who resigned a few days ago as secretary of the town hall.

In Mocorito, it is considered a fact that, despite the popular protests, PRI will run as a candidate for mayor Crisanto Gonzalez Rosas, who has the backing of the National Union of Educational Workers.

In Angostura, conflicts have been triggered among political bosses over power, but PRI has apparently already decided in favor of Heriberto Vega Soto, head of the Production Communal Farm Union. There might be protests and dissatisfaction there too.

Other precandidates who are considered to be "bound" to hold a mayor's office although PRI has not yet unveiled them are: Jacobo Miranda, in Choix; Jaime Humberto Cecena Imperial, in El Fuerte; Eduardo Solorio Gamez, in Sinaloa de Leyva; Octavio Lara Salazar, in Badiraguato; Marcos Urias Sotomayor, in Cosala; Jesus Manuel Escoboza, in San Ignacio; Mario Pechir Rubio, in El Rosario; and Rufino Pardo, in Escuinapa.

In the municipality of Elota, the "good one" appears to be Trinidad Rodriguez, but he might be sacrificed at the last minute to give that position to the Independent Peasants Confederation. Rodriguez also belongs to the peasant sector, but to that of CNC.

Meanwhile, the PRI women's sector is also engaged in maneuvers to hold more political positions than the one it already has assured with Elba Mundo de Navarro, who will certainly be run by PRI as a candidate for local deputy of the first local district. They also wanted Eduviges Vega Padilla, regional delegate of SEP [Secretariat of Public Education], to be municipal president of Culiacan, and Enriqueta Gomez Millan, leader of ANFER, in the municipality of Elota, to occupy the mayor's office in that location as well. The women's sector also wanted (and still wants) Marta Ofelia Meza de Porras, leader of the women in CNC, to be a local deputy; and Maria Luisa Solis Payan to be a deputy too.

The PRI youth sector, for its part, is also striving to procure more positions. For the present, they are trying to retain the local deputyship now held by Daniel Portillo Reynaga. The MNJR [National Movement of Revolutionary Youth] leader in the state, Octavio Camacho Parra, has asserted that the youth are entitled to occupy more council seats, because at present they have only four, and they are in unimportant municipalities.

[Part V: 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 14]

[Excerpts] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 18 August--With the promise to contribute financially to the construction of a coastal highway on which over 20 billion pesos will be spent, and also with the threat that nearly \$200 million, a sum representing the value of the last crop of garden produce exported to the United States, will not enter the country, the big agricultural business owners in Sinaloa are confident that PRI and the state government will give them more political posts and allow them to have a greater influence on public affairs.

Nevertheless, according to the Mexican Workers Party and the Unified Socialist Party of Mexico, to build the 321-kilometer highway, Governor Antonio Toledo Corro's "Pharaonic dream," the state governor has not yet obtained total backing from the private sector, one of whose leaders (Francisco Solano, head of the Sinaloa Business Owners Center) has expressed opposition to that project.

But all the state's businessmen support the governor's idea, and will make contributions, this correspondent was told by Sergio Orozco, head of the local CANACO [Chamber of Commerce] and of the Sinaloa Federation of Chambers of Commerce. The rich produce growers also back the project, and have offered to contribute 2 cents on the dollar for every crate of garden produce sold abroad, during the next 3 years.

Those large Sinaloa farmers, the mainstay of the National Union of Garden Produce Producers (whose top-ranking leader is Luis Saenz Unger of Sinaloa), estimate that, this year, they will accrue a production greater than that attained in 1982; and they are the very ones who have refused to bring to Mexico the amount obtained from the crops (picked as of last May) of tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, squash and other vegetables.

These agricultural business owners, who compete with those of Florida and California and who, during their major harvest season, send up to three trains a day to the United States loaded with garden produce, are owners of business firms and industries in Sinaloa, and own residences in Arizona, New Mexico and southern California, where they reside for a few months out of the year.

The garden produce growers, who are in one way or another associated with political affairs, and even attached to Toldeo Corro's cabinet or to positions gained from popular election, have brought their dollars into the country.

Generally speaking, they argue that the Secretariat of Finance wants to force them to bring in the hard currency at the controlled exchange rate, which is between 110 and 115 pesos per dollar. They are attempting to have the government allow them to exchange the foreign hard currency at the free market exchange rate, in other words, 150 pesos per dollar.

Coastal Road for Business Owners

The coastal highway, a long-standing desire of Governor Toledo Corro, was to be built before the termination of Jose Lopez Portillo's regime, but the

economic crisis prevented that. It would be a four-lane freeway from Guasave to Mazatlan, with entrances in Guamuchil, Culiacan and La Cruz. It would run parallel to the present International Highway, and is estimated as being built over the next 3 years, which is what remains for the current state administration.

Toledo Corro fostered the contributions from the production sectors, and, in addition to the garden produce growers, has succeeded in prompting the fishermen to contribute a certain amount of money for every kilogram of shrimp exported.

He also succeeded in convincing the hotel owners in Mazatlan and Los Mochis that they should contribute 50 pesos per day for every room, taking an occupancy of 50 percent as a basis, over the next 3 years. The Culiacan hotel owners refuse to make a similar contribution, because they claim that the coastal road would benefit their counterparts in Mazatlan and Los Mochis, but not them.

Now, the governor is attempting to convince business owners as a whole to contribute 1 percent of their declared income. Only the merchants have agreed.

[Part VI: 20 Aug 83 pp 1, 9]

[Text] Culiacan, Sinaloa, 19 August--While the president of the state PRI, Jorge Romero Zazueta, claims that this party has not been weakened, but rather is working every day of the year, and that "the reactionaries have nothing to do in Sinaloa, because these are revolutionary people," Enrique Pena Batiz, head of the Francisco I. Madero National Political Association (which will back PRI in the forthcoming elections for mayors and local deputies), explains:

"PRI has not been weakened, but it should become stronger, particularly in Sinaloa. Its members must close ranks and set themselves up as a solid barrier to curb the advancement of the reactionaries, who even have support from extra-national forces."

And Esteban Zamora Camacho, a PAN member and former federal deputy, notes that Governor Antonio Toledo Corro "is faced with a historic opportunity: he can go down in history as the governor who made the democratic changes which the political times required in Sinaloa, so long as there is respect for the political organizations and for the will of the people in the coming elections."

Romero Zazueta, PRI's precandidate for the municipal presidency of Culiacan, explains that the fact that there has not yet been a publication of the PRI notice for registration of its candidates for the 18 mayors' offices and 23 local deputyships "has not hurt PRI at all, because this party does not act only during election times, but maintains, and has maintained a constant, intense activity."

In his opinion, there need be no fear that the opposition may oust PRI in the elections that will take place on the first Sunday of November in this state; and he asserts: "The reactionaries will not gain positions in Sinaloa."

Romero Zazueta adds that both the party's managing committees and its state leaders, as well as its general delegate in the state, have engaged in an intensive effort for proselytism, and for rapprochement with the people; and, what is more important, for listening to and attempting to solve the problems of the residents of all municipalities in Sinaloa.

Pena Batiz, one of the leaders of the Henriquista movement during the 1950's, who led crowded demonstrations in Sinaloa backing Carlos A. Madrazo, when the latter renewed the democratic systems in PRI, during 1965, admits that this party "has been hurt" by the presence of business owners in its ranks; although he explains that not all members of private enterprise are reactionary.

He remarks: "There have been and there are in PRI persons who should not belong to the Institutional Party owing to their principles and ideologies. That is a national problem, but it is marked in Sinaloa."

And he cautions:

"In a battle or war, it is not feasible to underestimate the enemy. The current conditions in the country, particularly with regard to inflation and corruption in government, have given the opposition parties an opportunity to have more weapons against PRI and against the national political system. It is the latter which is really in danger."

PRI Cannot Lose Another Capital

Culiacan is the divider for the entire system: "Here, either it catches on or it withers," claims Pena Batiz, referring to the fact that the party in power cannot lose another state capital in the republic.

He notes in a concerned tone: "That is why I believe that PRI must close ranks here. We must do the utmost to protect Culiacan, so that it will not fall into the hands of the opposition."

He gives a reminder that, according to LOPPE [Federal Law on Political Organizations and Electoral Processes], the national political associations lack the legal authority to register candidates for positions based on popular election directly. Hence, they must sign agreements for incorporation with some of the national parties which do have registration.

He discloses: "The Francisco I. Madero Political Association signed an agreement with PRI, and therefore it will back this party's candidates. The origin of our association comes from Carlos A. Madrazo's desire for democratization. Our fundamental principles are closely linked with PRI, although we have disagreed with it concerning some of its procedures. Nevertheless, we believe that PRI is the valid option for the electorate at the present time."

He admits that PRI must correct mistakes and defects, and return to its more orthodox origins. He stresses: "There must be authenticity in its intentions, which have degenerated somewhat, owing mainly to the mistakes of some of its members rather than to its systems."

He claims: "Strengthening PRI and consequently curbing the reactionaries require a simple formula," stating that this formula is to listen to the people and to choose the best individuals to run as candidates.

The PAN member Zamora Camacho declares that people observe the viable option in his party, and claims that this political organization's reformist activity may not lend itself to heroic displays ("we don't want to ignite nor overturn the state of Sinaloa like an about-face"), but, we do want gradual social changes within the law.

He also claims that social change is imminent and inevitable, and that the position of conscientious rulers must be one of seeing to it that this transition, which will happen in any event, is carried out with the least amount of disorder.

He states that there has been pressure exerted against PAN candidates for council positions, "not only against Humberto Rice in Mazatlan, but also against many others," as he notes in conclusion.

2909

CSO: 3248/1246

BRIEFS

RADIO ANTILLES RETRENCHING--Radio Antilles, the Montserrat-based broadcasting station, yesterday retrenched a substantial number of its staff because of losses in revenue in both its English and French-speaking services. A management statement read out to the staff yesterday announced the lay-offs which became effective immediately. The statement also said that drastic programme changes would be implemented by 1 October. The lay-offs affected English and French-speaking staff in both Martinique and Guadeloupe. [Text] [FLO81541 Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 1 Sep 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/1306

COSEP OFFICIAL ON STATUS OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Guatemala City DIARIO EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Aug 83 p 17

[Text] A general analysis of private enterprise's situation in this country was given in an interview to LA PRENSA by Sergio Maltes, vice president of the Higher Council of Private Enterprise [COSEP].

The leader felt that the fear among Nicaraguan businessmen is based on the possibility of nationalization, "although we know that that will not take place in the short term, except under extraordinary circumstances."

COSEP includes 114 organizations and was one of the instruments of Somoza's downfall; first, when in 1954 it demanded an end to corruption and an improvement in public administration, and later in 1978 when it called for the resignation of the dictator, who paid no attention. It then entered into the armed struggle completely, in combination with the civilian struggle of private business.

Maltes said that when the national reconstruction government came to power, the private sector was represented by Robelo and Violeta de Chamorro, and three more seats on the council of government were given to that sector, and six other businessmen participated as officials.

The government was to be ruled by the national reconstruction program, supported by the statute on rights and guarantees for Nicaraguans. There are five bases to the program: political pluralism, respect for human rights and civil liberties, absolute freedom of the press, a mixed economy, and rule of law.

But little by little, there have been deviations from the plan, in creating the Sandinista Party, a Sandinista army, and then a government apparatus that is totally tied to the ruling party, when it should be tied to the government.

The government determines the Sandinista concept, and only they can define what that is. An excessive increase in arms, foreign advisors, and "although Nicaragua is a sovereign nation that may have relations with any country it wishes, it is suspicious to see the increase in relations with nations in the Marxist orbit, while relations with countries in Central America are becoming tense, particularly those with Honduras and El Salvador", says Maltes.

"Political freedom is restricted and private initiative is suffering under property confiscations, which are considered just when done to Somozists, but they are continuing with non-Somozists; simultaneously, invasions of land are increasing," he added.

At that time private business issued an analysis of how well the government of national reconstruction was carrying out its plan. The study indicates where the regime has deviated, and after 19 October 1981 a letter was sent to the coordinator of the government junta, Daniel Ortego Saavedra, ratifying the position of private enterprise relative to the plan of government and calling for thought. The government responded by arresting several leaders, and four of them spent a number of months in prison.

The private sector left the government. The situation became more critical, there was even more restriction of freedom of the press, and democratic interplay did not exist, since although the private system is not political, it wants the democratic system, and the government has said there will be no elections until 1985 in which the FSLN is not in control..." the leader declares.

"At the present time the economic situation is serious, the result of the world crisis and the insecurity of investment on the domestic scene. We recognize that there has been credit and technical assistance to certain agricultural and industrial areas, but the people in the private sector are fearful, as they have no guarantee that they will not lose their property."

The business leader feels that the main problems at the present time are uncertainty, a lack of capital for raw material and investments, poor communication with the government, a lack of security, the threat of nationalization by means of decrees, and the loss of the mixed economy.

"I assure you that there is well-founded fear that the government, little by little, is going about nationalizing the private sector, although we know that it will not take place in the short term, except under extraordinary circumstances," he said.

He noted that in that situation, "we are continuing to consolidate the private sector organizations, and the chambers are continuing to charge the government with irregularities regarding dates and figures; I think that that is the most important thing, since we must keep up our position and show the importance of the private sector, and that the government cannot do without it."

Nevertheless, the pressure continues, and many members of the chambers have been arrested, accused of crimes against the security of the nation we are trying to help."

"The situation in the factories is not encouraging, since investment is at a standstill, and although machinery may already be obsolete, there is no interest in repairing or replacing it.

"Now, the government has been very honest about national funds, and organized in a certain sense, but each day it strays further from democracy and approaches

some other system. In the face of that, the goal of the businessmen is to create a war and throw them out of power, unless they return to the original plan of government," he added.

Concrete Acts

COSEP revealed a list of acts by the Nicaraguan Government, which "show the government's disinclination toward the mixed economy and the development of free enterprise." They include:

- 1.--Four months in prison for Enrique Dreyfus, president of COSEP; Benjamin Lanzas, president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Construction; and Gilberto Cuadra president of the Professional Associations Confederation (CONAPRO).
- 2.--Government block of a \$5.1 million donation from the Association for International Development to private sector organizations.
- 3.--A government decree controlling the price, not only of basic commodities, but also articles like cosmetics, tires, office supplies, spark plugs, shavers, and construction materials, thus preventing free trade.
- 4.--Arbitrary applications of the laws on confiscations; the absentee law, de-capitalization law, agrarian reform law and others.
- 5.--Disproportionate censorship of all information on the private sector, such as the invitation to a mass on the second anniversary of the death of Jorge Salazar Arguello, and the speech by Enrique Dreyfus in Guadalajara, Mexico, when he received the "Golden Eagle" award from the Mexican private sector.
- 6.--The creation of parallel organizations to weaken the private sector, such as the National Farmers Union (UNAG), for example.
- 7.--Annulment of the COSEP representation in the International Labor Organization, which has represented Nicaragua for 40 years.
- 8.--The recent decree on the nationalization of the distribution of soap, flour, and oil by the government, which again affects the concept of a mixed economy.
- 9.--A decree establishing that any vehicle, whether for industrial, business, or private use, must, in order to leave the country, place a bond, deposit, or guarantee in an amount equal to 50 percent of the vehicle's value.
- 10.--A communique from the Foreign Trade Ministry warning that only potato producers organized by UNAG, which was created as a parallel organization to weaken the private sector, may sell in the Managua wholesale market.

Violations

The COSEP placed specific charges with the Permanent Commission on Human Rights (CPDH) regarding cases of violations of those rights involving members of that business organization.

One of those cases is the arrest of Dreyfus, Lanzas, Cuadra, and Enrique Bolanos Geyer, acting president of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Industry, following the letter sent by the businessmen to Daniel Ortega Saavedra.

"During that same action, the authorities also sought the arrest and trial of Reinaldo Hernandez, president of the Nicaraguan Confederation of Chambers of Commerce; Jaime Bangoechea, director of the Nicaraguan Chamber of Industry; and Ramiro Guardian, president of the Agricultural and Livestock Producers Union of Nicaragua (UPANIC), all of whom happened to be out of the country on business related to their offices.

Those arrested were found guilty of alleged crimes under that law, but were later pardoned on 14 February, 1982."

There was another case involving Enrique Bolanos Geyer, when he was taken off a plane already moving down the runway. He was on his way, as acting president of COSEP, to a meeting in Venezuela of the Federation of Chambers (FEDECAMARAS) and other Latin American private sector organizations.

That same day he was taken before Interior Minister Tomas Borge, and seriously warned about statements Minister Borge claimed had been made by Ramsey Clark against the revolution, later found to be an error. On 1 May 1982, Bolanos Geyer was mentioned by Commander Borge as one of the members of an alleged "Supreme Directorship" in exile.

8587

CSO: 3248/1214

OPPOSITION ORGAN PURSUES ISSUE OF NEVIS GOVERNMENT

Analysis of Imbalance

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 5

[Text]

Simmonds has arranged for Nevis to have elections in 3 weeks' time to elect its own government to run its own affairs

On 22 August Nevisians in Nevis will be electing their own legislators to represent them in their own House of Assembly and also their own Premier and Ministers of Government. Nevisians in Nevis will have their own governor and their own civil service.

Simmonds will use St. Kitts money to pay the Nevis governor, Nevis Premier, all the Nevis government ministers, all the Nevis civil servants, and everybody-else who is to be paid in Nevis.

While Simmonds is busily arranging for independence in Nevis, however, he continues to arrange for the people of St. Kitts to lose their rights and freedom and be subject to Nevis.

From 19 September the government of Nevis will govern Nevis and also rule over St. Kitts.

The government of Nevis will decide how much of St. Kitts money is to be spent on Nevis, and what is to be done with the balance, if anything is left. The Nevis government will decide how the affairs of St. Kitts are to be run.

We in St. Kitts object to having Nevis in charge of our affairs and our money. We are still demanding a government for St. Kitts. We continue to demand general elections before independence.

Simmonds has seen fit to give Nevis a government for itself, because it suits him to bribe Nevis and he has to pay for Nevis company.

St. Kitts wants a government too. We want our own government and be in charge of our own affairs.

The Nevis government will be looking after the interests of Nevis and Nevisians in Nevis. PAM will continue to look after the interests of Nevis because it needs Nevis to prop it up in power in St. Kitts.

St. Kitts needs a government to look after the interests of St. Kitts while the Nevis government and PAM are looking after the interests of Nevis.

PAM is not interested in St. Kitts. Simmonds does not want us in St. Kitts to have our own government. We clamoured in our thousands for general elections before independence, but Simmonds stiffened his neck, hardened his heart, and refused to hold elections in St. Kitts.

Nevisians did not call for elections in Nevis but Simmonds is holding elections in that island well in advance of September 19.

We continue to demand a government for St. Kitts.

We continue to reject Simmonds mock-jumble independence. We want real independence with our own government to run our own affairs in our own country.

The Nevisians will be able to celebrate

- Having a brand new government to sit in a brand new House of Assembly to govern their island
- Nevis having its own coat-of-arms, its own flag, and its own national anthem.
- being completely in charge of spending its own money.
- having the power to rule over St. Kitts
- being able to demand any amount of St. Kitts money that it wants, or demanding all if it wants.
- being able to have everything that it wants at St. Kitts expense.

Nevis will have a government.

St. Kitts wants a government too.

Bryant Criticism

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 11

[Frankly Speaking column by Fitzroy Bryant: "General Elections Monday 22 Aug 1983?"]

[Text]

At the end of a meeting of the House of Assembly on Friday 22 July 1983, Premier Dr. Kennedy A. Simmonds made an announcement. His government, he said, had set Monday 22 August 1983 as the date for the holding of elections in the island of Nevis for the purpose of electing the members of the Nevis Island Assembly which will govern Nevis after 19 September.

What Dr. Simmonds failed to say is of far greater importance than what he actually said.

He failed to say that, about two months ago, the key executive members of the Peoples Action Movement took the decision to hold General Elections in St. Kitts and Nevis in July 1983, the month just about to end.

He failed to say that, following on that decision, PAM started very active campaigning, including house-to-house canvassing, in Basseterre East, Central Basseterre, Cayon, Sandy Point and Lamberts/Middle Island.

Simmonds failed to tell the people of St. Kitts that the PAM leadership is now closely examining the idea of holding General Elections on Monday 22 August 1983, the same day that he announced for the holding of elections for the Nevis Island Assembly!

Two very obvious questions present themselves:

(1) Why would Simmonds and PAM be considering General Elections before Independence, especially as they have been trumpeting all the time that no elections will be held in St. Kitts before 1985?

(2) If they did take such a "foolish" decision, why didn't they hold the General Elections in July? Why wait till August? And why the same date as the Nevis Island Assembly elections?

Let us deal with the first question.

The people of St. Kitts have been demanding elections before independence since July last year. They have argued, quite forcefully and logically, that

- (a) The Simmonds government has no mandate to take St. Kitts and Nevis into independence, and
- (b) That the White Paper proposals and the lopsided Constitution based on those proposals have never been approved by the people of St. Kitts and indeed have been rejected by the people of St. Kitts.

The more forcefully the people have demanded elections, the more definitely have Simmonds and his gang declared that there will not be any elections. Some of them have even been cute enough as to assert that there won't be any elections in St. Kitts before 1985!

No sensible Kittitian should be taken in by that kind of response. When you hear politicians proclaiming most loudly that there can't or won't be elections, look out. That is precisely the time they are planning to drop elections on you out of the blue.

CATCHING THE OPPOSITION OFF-GUARD

Remember the recent General Elections in the United Kingdom. When newspapers and political commentators were speculating in March and April and even in May that there would be elections in June, Mrs. Thatcher replied very definitely, "Oh no. June is too early. My government has a lot of things to do before elections can be held. No elections are required at this time. Maybe in September/October."

In May she suddenly announced the date for General Elections as June 9! She had changed her mind. Changed what mind. She was planning for June all the time, even when she was saying "June is too early. No elections are required. Etc."

The plan was to catch the Opposition political parties off-guard and unprepared. And it seems she did. Her party won the elections with an increased majority.

But that only warns us not to be fooled by the noises of the Simmonds crowd. It doesn't answer the question why Simmonds should be thinking about General Elections at this time.

The answer to that is quite simple. Simmonds and his trumps can see and feel what everybody living in St. Kitts can see and feel - every day that passes, every week that passes, the people of St. Kitts are getting more and more fed up with Simmonds and his incompetent, corrupt gang. The people want them out.

The PAM strategists have therefore advised that, the sooner Simmonds holds elections, the better for him. However bad his position is now, it will be worse in 3 months' time, in 6 months' time, in 1 year's time. Getting worse all the time.

That is why they planned for July. Before the Dull Season set in. Before the sugar workers started to get their 1 day's work and 0 day's work per week.

But things didn't work out for PAM as Simmonds and the rest had planned. When Powell, Simmonds, Heyliger, Morris and the rest started to go canvassing in May and June, they

found the people very hostile to them. Everywhere they turned they were receiving a bad reception.

So they retreated. They backed off of July.

They are now considering August. They want to see if they can catch the Labour Party off-guard and unprepared. And what better time in August than Monday 22 August? While everybody studying the Nevis campaigning, drop a little surprise on them.

INCOMPETENT AND FOOLISH MEN

That is the plan. But, of course, it won't work. Nothing the jokers in the Simmonds government plan can work. They are a group of incompetent and foolish men who don't really know their a-- (4-letter word) from their elbow.

The government recently passed a Resolution in the House of Assembly to re-arrange the electoral divisions in St. Kitts and Nevis. Whenever the next General Elections take place, St. Kitts will be eight (8) seats and Nevis will be three (3) seats.

Simmonds is hoping that the N.R.P. can win all three seats in Nevis and that PAM can win three of the eight seats in St. Kitts, so that his so-called coalition can have six seats and stay in power.

But he has a big problem. We are in the Dull Season now and the sugar workers, the civil servants, the hotel workers, the industrial workers, the unemployed young people, and their families, are all waiting for a chance to boot him out. So the rest of this year doesn't look too good for him.

However, it is manifest that 1984 is going to be a lot worse. The sugar crop might not make 20,000 tons. The cost of food, clothes, rent, entertainment, every damned thing, is rising fast. His government is broke, dead broke and is living on borrowed money.

The cries of suffering and despair are becoming more ominous every day. Will the people endure his government for the whole of 1984? Will he have to declare a state of emergency? 1984 could be real hell in St. Kitts.

So maybe he should look again at August 1983, take his chance and hope for the best.

Nevis Election Candidates

Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 13 Aug 83 p 2

[Text]

The general public is hereby notified that nomination of candidates for the Nevis Island Assembly Elections to be held on Monday, August 22nd, 1983 took place yesterday at the Administration Building, Charlestown.

The nominated candidates and parties contesting the Elections, as well as symbols allocated to each party, are as follows:-

Electoral District (1) Parish of St. Paul, Charlestown.

HOBSON, Theodore L. - Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) The Hat
STEVENS, Ivor A. - Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) The Bottle

Electoral District (2) Parish of St. John, Figtree

LIBURD, Zephaniah - Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) The Hat
MORTON, Levi - Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) The Bottle
WALWYN, Myrna - Nevis Independent Party (NIP) The Hand

Electoral District (3) Parish of St. George, Gingerland

SMITHEN, Frederick - Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) The Hat
SWANSTON, Ubral - Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) The Bottle

Electoral District (4) Parish of St. James, Windward

EVELYN, Arthur L. - Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) The Bottle

Electoral District (5) Parish of St. Thomas, Lowland

DANIEL, Simeon - Nevis Reformation Party (NRP) The Bottle

The nominated candidate for Electoral District (4), ARTHUR EVELYN, and the nominated candidate for Electoral District (5), SIMEON DANIEL, were unopposed and have duly declared the elected members for these Electoral Districts, in accordance with the provisions of the Law, by the respective Returning Officers.

E. Petty
Supervisor of Elections

BOYCOTT OF INDEPENDENCE BY LABOR MOVEMENT, NEWSPAPER

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 27 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The coalition government formed by the Peoples Action Movement and the Nevis Reformation Party propose to take the Islands of St Kitts and Nevis into independence on 19 September 1983 on the basis of certain peculiar arrangements and a novel Constitution which the vast majority of the people of St Kitts do not accept. During the past twelve months the people of St Kitts have demonstrated their opposition and rejection of the proposed independence arrangements and the Constitution in a variety of ways.

For these reasons, the Labour Movement has decided on a policy of non-cooperation with and non-participation in the proposed independence celebrations.

As a result, the Labour Spokesman Printery will not accept for printing any jobs which are supportive of the proposed independence celebrations and "The Labour Spokesman" newspaper will not be carrying any advertisements which are supportive of the proposed independence celebrations.

The Labour Spokesman Printery and "The Labour Spokesman" newspaper will, however, continue to offer their usual services to advertisers and to the general public. We look forward to your continued patronage and support.

CSO: 3298/889

SUGAR WORKERS FACE 6 MONTHS WITHOUT FULL EMPLOYMENT

Basseterre THE LABOUR SPORTSMAN in English 27 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

According to very reliable information the National Agricultural Corporation has drawn up lists of sugar workers for all of the estates in St. Kitts and an overwhelming majority of the estate workers are to get only one (1) day's work per week for the next six months, during those weeks when work is to be given to the estate workers.

Crop ended on 16 July 1983 and the Dull Season started on Monday 18 July. The Dull Season is expected to end late in January, according to NACO sources.

Estate workers will not be given any work at all during the following weeks -

1 - 6 August
22 - 27 August
19 - 24 September
26 Sept. - 1 October
31 Oct. - 5 November

This information was contained in a circular put out by the NACO bosses on 13 July 1983.

During the other weeks of the Dull Season most of the estate workers are to get only one (1) day's work.

As if the suffering and misery heaped on the sugar workers by the Simmonds government are not painful enough already, the government has arranged it so that, in the first week of the Dull Season St. Kitts has run out of flour.

As a result, sugar workers and their families all over St. Kitts cannot get bread to eat! At a time when they do not have the money to "put on a pot" to feed themselves and their children.

Our investigations reveal that the last flour boat arrived in St. Kitts on 24 June more than one month ago. The government is the sole importer of flour into the island.

Nearly all of the bakeries around St. Kitts said they had no flour yesterday

afternoon and those bakeries which had said they would run out today, Wednesday.

A government official said flour should be arriving at the end of this week.

Meanwhile, the suffering increases day by day. The Ministers of the Simmonds government are extremely busy preparing for their mock independence celebrations and have no time to consider whether the poor people of St. Kitts have food to eat.

CSO: 3298/889

BRIEFS

VIP'S AT INDEPENDENCE--On Thursday of this week, Mr Jackie Cramer, Chairman of the Transportation Sub-Committee disclosed that he has been advised that over 100 Heads of Government are expected to come to St Kitts-Nevis to take part in the INDEPENDENCE Celebrations. Mr Cramer said that the dignitaries will be coming from all over the world: Africa, the Middle East, the Caribbean, and so on. Mr Cramer's group is responsible for the internal transportation of the dignitaries in addition to the Heads of International Agencies and other V.I.P.'s. About 40 cars and drivers have already been volunteered by private citizens willing to serve their country, and more than 30 taxi-drivers have also accepted a cut-rate price offered by the Sub-Committee for their services. Mr Cramer stressed that he was pleased by the response shown for this national effort, and said he wished that even more nationals would come to realize that no politics is involved. [Excerpt] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 13 Aug 83 p 1]

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO ENVOY--Yesterday His Excellency Basil Pitt presented his credentials to the Honourable Premier Dr Kennedy Simmonds. His Excellency is the High Commissioner for Trinidad and Tobago to St Kitts-Nevis; He was accompanied by Mrs Pitt and Deputy High Commissioner Mr Peter Rambert during his 5-day visit which will end on Monday. Premier Simmonds and High Commissioner Pitt discussed closer co-operation between St Kitts-Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago, to further the relationship already flourishing. Trinidad and Tobago has already advanced \$4 million for the completion of our Deep Water Port, and has provided the services of BWIA for a breakthrough in direct air traffic to New York. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 13 Aug 83 p 1]

FACTORY MOVE TO NEVIS--Reports out of Sandy Point reveal that on Thursday of this week a large quantity of equipment was taken from the machine shop and roler department at St Kitts Enterprises and Transported to Nevis. A few months ago this newspaper published a report that plans were afoot to phase out the work at St Kitts Enterprises and re-locate that factory in Nevis. Since then equipment has steadily been shipped from Sandy Point to Nevis and there are growing reports that the company is being encouraged by the Simmonds government to close down its operation in St Kitts in the near future. These reports come in the wake of a recent disclosure in Nevis by a NRP spokesman that a new electronics company will be opened on that island next Tuesday. The company will be known as Nevis Industries Ltd. and will commence into

operation on Tuesday, 2nd August. St. Kitts Enterprises (Sandy Point) Ltd started its operations in St Kitts in 1977. At present there are over 100 workers, mainly young women drawn from Sandy Point and the nearby villages, employed at the plant. There are widespread fears among the workers that the plant will be closed to be re-opened in Nevis. The Simmonds government has continued to refuse to make a statement on the matter. [Text] [Basseterre THE LABOUR SPOKESMAN in English 30 Jul 83 p 12]

UK AID TO FARMERS--British aid funds are to be used to help establish an irrigation project in north-west Nevis. Some EC \$215,000 will be spent on the project to provide water from natural springs above New River, supplemented by surface storage at Cades Bay, Potworks and Spring Hill. One of the constraints to agricultural development on Nevis is the shortage of land suitable for cultivation. Many of the soils best suited for agricultural purposes pose formidable problems to farmers because of severe erosion, their sticky clay character and the presence of heavy boulders and stones which make mechanised farming impractical. The objective of the project is to encourage young people to participate in intensive farming on the Government land at New River which is suitable for cultivation and does not require expensive clearing or terracing. As intensive use of these lands is proposed, this requires irrigation so that at least two crops can be obtained per year. The land will be leased to the young farmers by the Government. Maize, ground nuts, peas and beans, amongst other vegetable crops will be grown. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 30 Jul 83 p 7]

LOANS TO DEVELOPMENT BANK--The Development Bank of St Kitts-Nevis received two major loans recently totalling \$5.5 million, enabling it to increase its lending activities to local entrepreneurs. Mr Auckland Hector, Manager of Bank disclosed that the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) lent \$3.1 million and the European Investment Bank (EIB) \$2.4 million. "The money," Mr Hector said, "will be used to assist the citizens of St Kitts-Nevis in Industry, Tourism, Agricultural Projects and Housing." The Development Bank of St Kitts-Nevis was established in May 1981 replacing the former Development and Finance Co-operation. [Text] [Basseterre THE DEMOCRAT in English 13 Aug 83 p 11]

CSO: 3298/890

OPPOSITION REJECTS GOVERNMENT CLAIM OF 2.4-PERCENT GROWTH

Bridgetown BAREADOS ADVOCATE in English 18 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

KINGSTOWN. St. Vincent. Wednesday, (CANA) — "Unity", a newspaper published by the opposition Movement for National Unity (MNU) has questioned the 2.4 per cent economic growth which the government of St. Vincent and the Grenadines reported last year, claiming the figure is "largely fictional."

"Unity" noted that banana production — one of the mainstays of the economy — had fallen by 3 000 tons in 1982, and that the value of the produce had also declined because of the drop in the value of the pound Sterling. In addition, there was a fall-off in arrowroot production and tourism earnings, and a slowdown in electricity, wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants, the paper said.

"Unity" contended that the bulk of the reported growth took place in the "public administration sector" arguing that this sector had expanded at the "whims or dictates" of the

bureaucracy and the requirements of public financing.

The MNU is led by leftwing lawyer and Ex-University of the West Indies political science lecturer, Dr. Ralph Gonzalves.

"Unity" declared: "Any economy in which the largest sector is public administration — and in this country it — has no prospect of lifting-off into sustained growth."

It said the beneficiaries of such "paper growth" were the state capitalists within the ruling party and their "highly partisan political friends" in the business sector.

The newspaper questioned the statistical basis on which the 2.4 per cent economic growth was calculated.

"Unity" said it believed some goods and services in St. Vincent and the Grenadines were counted twice in computing the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), resulting in an inflated and unreliable GDP.

CSO: 3298/919

COUNTRY SECTION

ST VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

BRIEFS

NEW HIGH COMMISSIONER--Kingstown, St Vincent, 27 Aug (CANA)--New Barbados-based British high commissioner to the Eastern Caribbean, Giles Bullard, has presented his credentials to St Vincent Governor General Sir Sydney Gun-Munro during his first visit to the country since taking up his new appointment. Mr Bullard also met most of the island's government ministers and had informal discussions with Prime Minister Milton Cato. [Text]
[FL271434 Bridgetown CANA in English 1411 GMT 27 Aug 83]

CSO: 3298/1307

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Sept 29, 1983